

HALIFAX metro®

NEWS
WORTH
SHARING.



'Whatever means necessary'

While back-to-work legislation is not on the table (yet), premier tells nurses province doing well on ratios and will prioritize patients **PAGE 3**

Two by two

Russell Crowe stars in Noah, just the latest in a lineup of movies featuring the story of pairs of animals, a flood, and the guy who had to try and keep it all afloat **PAGE 14**



LEARNING THE HARD WAY

METRO LOOKS AT CHRONIC SHORTAGES THAT PLAGUE FIRST NATIONS SCHOOLS. DAY 1: THE PROBLEM **PAGES 10-11**



A WIN AND A LOSS

Halifax Mooseheads forward Darcy Ashley gets checked into the boards by Nathan Yetman of the Charlottetown Islanders during the first period of Game 3 of their best-of-seven QMJHL first-round playoff series Tuesday night in Charlottetown. Halifax won 4-1 to take a 3-0 series lead, but Ashley left the game and is day-to-day with an upper-body injury. Story, page 20. BRIAN MCINNIS/CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Halifax, here comes the bomb

(Another) storm's a comin'. Road crews ready as major winter blast set to strike

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HRM's winter-works department has their work cut out for them as a weather bomb is set to drop on the region Wednesday.

But Gordon Hayward, the municipality's superintendent for the department, said his team is ready.

"We learned an awful lot from the blizzard of 2004, White Juan," Hayward said to the media Tuesday afternoon. "There are additional resources we can call on, we've got Plan B in the pocket to dust off if we need to."

Within HRM, Hayward said they will deploy 45 municipal snowplows and an equal number of contracted trucks.

As well, over 50 loaders and graders will join the effort to help keep the streets clean.

Environment Canada said the bomb is expected to dump as much as 40 centimetres of snow on the Halifax region over a 24-hour period, with winds set to reach 100 kilometres per hour. Storm surge and blizzard warnings were issued Tuesday as a result.

Despite the efforts of road crews, police are urging the public to use extreme caution

self in harm's way."

On the provincial side of things, Barb Baillie, executive director of maintenance and operations for Nova Scotia, confirmed that pre-salting precautions on some highways had been underway since 1 p.m. Tuesday.

Baillie said when the storm kicks into high gear on Wednesday, around 500 pieces of snow-clearing equipment will be on the highways at any given time.

Quoted

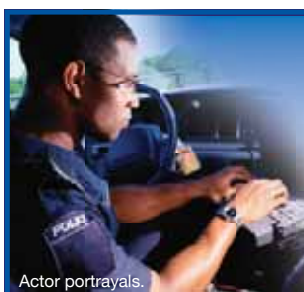
"Hopefully I'll get into the office, but like everybody else, if we're asked to stay off the roads, I'll stay off the roads and work from home." HRM Mayor Mike Savage

if they must venture out during the storm.

"Pay attention to the watches and warnings," RCMP Supt. Darrell Beaton said in a statement. "If you travel, there is potential to get stranded and place your-

When all is said and done Wednesday, many forecasters believe this will be the worst snowstorm of the season.

"Some people think winter is over," said Hayward. "This will be a firm reminder that it's not."



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Mandated nurse ratios

Aging pop. calls for more care: Nurse

A Halifax nurse and member of the union bargaining committee said Tuesday that Premier Stephen McNeil needs to “step away” from their talks with the Capital District Health Authority.

On Tuesday, Robert Chisholm responded to the premier’s comment that Nova Scotia already has high nurse-to-patient ratios by saying the province has a much older population than the rest of the country, with more chronic illness and cancer rates.

“I think it’s worthy of mentioning,” Chisholm said. “That is why we do have the current nurse ratios that we do in this province.”

Chisholm said the Nova Scotia General Employees Union was told by Capital Health they didn’t have the authority to approve higher mandated nurse ratios.

“Obviously that might be a government-driven mandate,” he said. “I would ask the premier to actually step away from the negotiating table.”

Chisholm said he understands that patients are anxious about what would happen in the event of a strike, but added this is the “one and only” opportunity the union will have to get mandated nurse ratios in the province “and the nurses truly believe in it.”

He said it’s “highly unlikely” the union would take a deal that includes higher salaries or other demands but leaves out the nursing ratios.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



Premier Stephen McNeil answers questions from the media during a press conference at One Government Place on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

McNeil to nurses: ‘What more do you want?’

NSGEU negotiations. Premier boasts above-average patient ratios



HALEY RYAN
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Nova Scotia’s premier says there is no back-to-work legislation on the table for Halifax area nurses just yet, but the province will use “whatever means necessary” to ensure patient safety.

Premier Stephen McNeil told reporters Tuesday he was disappointed mediated negotiations between the Nova Scotia

General Employees Union (NSGEU) and the Capital District Health Authority broke down Sunday after three days of talks.

“We’re looking for any sign from the two sides that they’re going to continue to find a resolution to this problem,” McNeil said.

Union leader Joan Jessome said Monday her 2,500 nursing members are ready to walk off the job illegally if the province tables essential-services legislation.

McNeil said he is disappointed with the “amount of rhetoric” that has been going on in the public and media because he would like to see both sides at the table working

Deadline

The union will be in a legal strike position on April 3.

on a settlement.

Although Jessome has said there has been no movement from Capital Health on the key point of mandated nurse-to-patient ratios, McNeil said Nova Scotia already has a ratio above the national average.

The province has 980 registered nurses per 100,000 people while the national average is 780 nurses, McNeil said.

“The question becomes, ‘What more is going to make a

difference? What more do you want?’” McNeil said.

Both sides were discussing emergency service staffing on Tuesday, and McNeil said he hoped “cooler heads will prevail” during that discussion and negotiations will start again.

“They need to show us something today that not only are they looking at emergency services, but that they are continuing to talk about how they find a permanent resolution.”

The government will let the bargaining process continue as long as both sides communicate, McNeil said, but will use “whatever means necessary to ensure that patient safety is being protected in this province.”

1 NEWS



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Dozens in Halifax protest changes to elections act

Rally, rally. If you are a voter, you should care, group says

Chanting the slogan 'Yes to democracy, no to C-23,' about three dozen people braved the cold to gather outside the constituency office of Halifax MP Megan Leslie during the lunch hour on Wednesday to protest the proposed changes to the federal government's Fair Elections Act.

Similar protests were held at other MP offices in Canada as part of a Let People Vote national day of action. All told, the protestors have delivered a petition with more than 80,000 signatures opposing the bill's stricter voter ID requirements.

"This bill will disenfranchise thousands of Canadians from students, aboriginal people, and low-income families," said Kateyln Northam, protest organizer and a representative for Leadnow.ca, outside Leslie's Gottingen Street office.

The group believes some of the changes proposed in the

Fair Elections Act by the Conservative government will limit the role of Election Canada to investigate voter fraud and add stricter voter ID requirements by making it illegal for people to vote using only a voter identification card or someone else "vouching" for them.

"This is a challenge to young people, to the poor of Canada and every voter that cares about a fair democracy to do something and show we are engaged," said Nick Stark, a member of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Protestors also wanted to show support for Opposition parties' efforts to stop the bill in Parliament, said Northam.

Leslie, whose NDP party is against the changes, was in Ottawa on Tuesday, but Anne-Marie Foote, a representative for her office, spoke on her behalf.

"Megan thanks you for your activism," said Foote. "In order to make changes to this legislation it is going to take community activism and taking each and every voter taking an interest and speaking out."

MELISSA HEALD/FOR METRO



Protesters gather outside Megan Leslie's Gottingen Street office to protest the Harper government's Fair Elections Act on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Jury out over report of wild cougar sighting in N.S.



A photo taken of a cougar at the wildlife park near Shubenacadie. TRIURO DAILY NEWS

Who says there are no wild cougars in Nova Scotia?

Authorities may caution otherwise but two River John-area residents are convinced that an animal that crossed in front of them on the Upper River John Road last week was indeed a cougar.

"It sat there and it kind of looked at us," said Heather Morrissey, who said she and friend Karl Karlsson spotted the cougar one day last week. "And I mean I seen the thing directly. It looked at me

when it was down over the embankment," she said, adding the lighting conditions were good and the pair was only between seven to nine metres away from the animal before it slipped away into the woods.

"And it was a sunny day, there was no confusion," Morrissey said, adding that as a former animal control officer in Burlington, Ont. for 18 years, she has had previous contact with eastern cougars.

"It was a very rare occa-

Following up on reports

- Shavonne Meyers said the department records each reported sighting they receive and, where possible, the reports are checked out by DNR staff.

sion but we did see them," she said.

"I've seen them also in wildlife parks and things like that,

so this definitely was a cougar."

Shavonne Meyers, a Department of Natural Resources biologist in Truro, said while Morrissey's description "sounds a lot like a cougar," so do a lot of the 50 to 100 sightings the department receives each year.

"They sound great," Meyers said, of similar sightings that often come from "very credible sources too. But without the physical evidence, we say the jury is still out."

TRIURO DAILY NEWS

April 3

N.S. finance minister to release spring budget

The Nova Scotia government will deliver its spring budget April 3. Finance Minister Diana Whalen recently warned that wage and other cost pressures combined with poor economic growth will

add to the government's challenges in the 2014-15 fiscal year. Whalen said civil service job cuts are not a priority in the upcoming budget.

The last fiscal update Whalen released in December projected a \$481.7 million deficit for 2013-14 due to a large unfunded liability in the public service pension plan and a drop in government revenue.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Diana Whalen METRO FILE

Motion passed

Springhill says so long to police force

The first domino fell since the Town of Springhill announced it will dissolve into the county, with council passing a motion Tuesday afternoon to disband the Springhill Police Service.

"The future of policing

will be decided by the transition team as part of the application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board," Mayor Max Snow said.

Deputy Mayor Darrell White said the motion is a contractual formality that the town, as employers, are required to give the department 12-months notice of terminating its services.

AMHERST DAILY NEWS

Making the trip

Ships ahoy for ferry lovers

After months of delay, Nova Star Cruises is now selling tickets for the Yarmouth to Portland ferry service. The Nova Star is scheduled to make its first dialing round-trip crossing from Portland to Yarmouth on May 15.

YARMOUTH VANGUARD

Drug ring. Six Halifax men arrested as part of Alberta investigation

Police in Grande Prairie, Alta, have arrested six men from Halifax as a result of a months-long investigation into a drug network.

The communications manager for Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams said Tuesday that members of the Grande Prairie Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU-Grande Prairie) wrapped up the five-month-long operation on March 19, carrying out three search warrants and arresting eight people.

"Our information is that these individuals are part of a larger criminal group that is based in Halifax," said Mike Tucker. "So they've kind of been on our radar for a little bit now."

Tucker said members of CFSEU-Grande Prairie saw the group in action, witnessing several drug deals implicating both cocaine dealers and their suppliers in Grande Prairie.

"These individuals did demonstrate a propensity for violence in an effort to kind of gain control over the drug lines in Grande Prairie," said Tucker.

Investigators seized about \$18,000 worth of cocaine and two prohibited weapons as a result of the search warrants.

Drugs, weapons charges

- The six men who have been charged are: Joshue Hendsbee, 26; Derek Cawthorn, 23; Marcus Verreault, 21; Romell Allison, 19; Ommyo Parham, 18; and Jeremy Ross, 33 years old.
- They are facing a total of 19 drug and weapons charges.

Tucker said it's a relatively small amount of cocaine, but investigators say it indicates the volume and pace at which the group was selling.

Tucker said about a dozen more men, also all from Halifax, were arrested in a similar operation in September 2013.

"There is a very big cocaine market in northern Alberta ... what our investigators told me is there's a steady stream of young men willing to relocate from Halifax to work these phones and to deal drugs," he said. "We're really just trying to send the message that, look, we're aware of this group and we're going to keep making arrests until they go away."

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO



The aftermath of a head-on collision with a city bus

A towing operator removes a pickup truck that was involved in a head-on collision with a Metro Transit bus on Ilsley Avenue in Dartmouth on Tuesday afternoon. The driver of the truck was treated at the scene for minor injuries. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Say hello to a new, bold Halifax

'Be bold.' Local company reveals brand strategy, residents saying it's time for change



RUTH DAVENPORT
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HRM's first-ever branding strategy has been unveiled to some regional councilors, and it appears to contain the coup de grace for the moniker "HRM."

Representatives of Revolve Branding rolled out the city's new brand "DNA," including a mission statement, vision and promise, to members of the city's executive standing committee this week.

Revolve CEO Phil Otto

said the strategy is based on exhaustive consultation with 21,000 residents of HRM, the bulk of who were pretty clear on one key point.

"We heard a very loud and clear message that people want the name to be Halifax," he said. "The people who weren't as on board with that seemed to be more concerned that their community is going to lose their local identity, which they're not."

A second theme that emerged from the focus groups, engagement sessions and online dialogue was that residents didn't want to keep, or simply tweak, the existing brand in HRM.

While respondents said Halifax's rich history and livable, small-town feel should be cherished, they also high-



HRM Mayor Mike Savage
JEFF HARPER/METRO

lighted the need for change and more investment in innovation and entrepreneurship.

At the core of the new strategy is what Otto calls the rallying cry: "Be Bold."

"There's a bubbling up of vibrancy and culture that

is bringing us to a place that we've learned people want to be bold," said Otto.

"People want us to put a stake in the ground, talk about who we are, not try to be anything we're not, but let that enthusiasm rise to the surface that's been there for some time now."

Mayor Mike Savage said the proposed brand strategy, which will affect everything from tourism to business retention to economic development, is "excellent."

"I'm excited by it, a little bit nervous as well, which I think is appropriate," he said. "I was hoping it wouldn't be bland, it would be somewhat aggressive, and I think it is."

The brand strategy will likely go to regional council for debate in mid-April.

Safe in the city. Missing Halifax man found: Police

Police say they have found safe a missing Halifax man who did not show up to work on Monday.

The Halifax Regional Police/RCMP integrated vice unit were looking for 33-year-old Jonathan Fisher, who had been last seen on the evening of March 23 at Alexander's Pizza on

Queen Street at about 11 p.m.

Fisher did not show up for work on Monday, and police said in a release issued on Tuesday morning that no one had heard from him or seen him since. On Tuesday, police announced that he had been located safely in Halifax in the early afternoon. METRO

Three teens arrested

Pellet gun fired at Halifax home

Three teens were arrested after a pellet gun was fired at a Halifax residence Monday. Police arrived at the 2400 Block of Gottingen Street around 8:45 p.m. after receiving a report of shots fired. The bullets caused damage to the windows of the residence and a nearby parked car. One 15-year-old and two 14-year-olds were taken into custody. METRO

Town of Hantsport

Former town employee charged with stealing

A former Town of Hantsport employee is accused of stealing more than \$5,000 from the town's coffers. Kellie Walsh appeared before Judge Alan Tufts on an indictable charge of theft over \$5,000 on Monday. Tufts said it is alleged the money was stolen between Aug. 1, 2012 and June 6, 2013. HANTS JOURNAL

HRM budget reveal delayed by wild weather

A presentation on HRM's 2014-15 budget will have to wait for April Fool's Day.

The operating and project budgets were scheduled to be tabled before regional council's Committee of the Whole Wednesday morning.

However, in light of Wednesday's bad weather, the presentation has been rescheduled to April 1 at 10 a.m. This year's budget setting process included a first-ever public engagement

component that allowed residents to join the budget preparations by commenting during community council or Committee of the Whole meetings or by using the online budget allocator. METRO

Online

Tuesday's budget can be seen at www.halifax.ca/budget

Birds of a feather say no to Winnipeg's weather

No spring ahead, fall back! About 200 geese that made their annual return north decided it was too cold and flew back the way they came



SHANE GIBSON
Metro in Winnipeg

It's so cold in Winnipeg this spring even the geese are turning their feathers to our weather.

Ken Cudmore, of the FortWhyte Alive park and recreation facility, told Metro Tuesday a group of 200 or so Canada geese that had made their annual return to the centre last week took to the air and headed back the way they came just days after landing.

"I've been doing this for 30 years and I don't remember ever seeing anything like it," said Cudmore, FortWhyte's site and wildlife manager. "I couldn't imagine they went north, so I'm assuming they went back south."

Cudmore said geese normally follow the disappearing snowline on their annual migration north, and he thinks the few nice days we saw last week and a strong south wind might have tricked the birds into thinking it was nicer up this way than it turned out to be once they got here.

With temperatures dropping 10 and sometimes even closer to 20 degrees below the temperatures we can normally expect for this time of year, Cudmore said he doesn't blame the iconic birds one bit.

"Not at all," he laughed. "I'm thinking of joining them."



Ken Cudmore, site and wildlife manager of Winnipeg's FortWhyte Alive centre, says a group of 200 or so Canada geese that landed there last week have since headed back south because of the cold weather. CONTRIBUTED

Privacy. Device with data on 583,000 student loans left unsecured: Report

A portable hard drive containing personal information on more than half a million people who took out student loans was left unsecured for extended periods and lacked password protection and encryption, says the federal privacy czar.

Employees handling the device were not aware of the sensitivity of the information it contained, concludes the report from interim privacy commissioner Chantal Bernier.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada acknowledged last year the drive held data on 583,000 Canada Student Loans Program borrowers from 2000 to 2006.

The missing files included student names, social insurance numbers, dates of birth, contact information and loan balances, as well as the personal contact information of 250 department employees.

Bernier's report, tabled in Parliament, says a gap between policies and practices at the department — now known as Employment and Social Development Canada — led to weaknesses in

Human error or ill intent?

2 months

The privacy commissioner's office opened its investigation in January of last year after the department reported that the hard drive had been missing for two months. Officials did not know whether it was a case of human error or ill intent.

information management, physical security controls and employee awareness.

The commissioner found that department employees violated sections of the federal Privacy Act related to the use, disposal and disclosure of personal information.

Information security cannot be assured by having policies on paper — they must be put into practice every day, Bernier said.

The department has begun implementing her recommendations, she added. "We hope this investigation will prompt other federal departments and private-sector organizations to review their own privacy policies and practices."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Study: Most lost cellphones are returned — after some snooping

The odds of having a lost cellphone returned are just a little better than 50/50, while the chances of it being probed by its finder are close to 100 per cent, according to the results of an experiment conducted in six Canadian cities.

Security software company Symantec dropped 10 phones each in Calgary, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver and waited to see if they would be returned.

Each phone was preloaded with icons for phoney apps designed to tempt the finders into tapping on them. Tracking software recorded what they couldn't resist peeking at.

Stefano Tiranardi, an information protection specialist with Symantec Canada, says he's disappointed by the results of the experiment.

"I was surprised at the higher-than-expected numbers," Tiranardi says.

"Really, individuals who misplace a phone or have it stolen have absolutely no hope their private information will remain private."

Of the 60 phones in the test, 55 per cent of them were picked up by someone who attempted to return the device, while 27 were grabbed and



Security-software company Symantec dropped 10 cellphones in six Canadian cities to see how persistent people would be in snooping around in phones they found. The answer, according to the results of the experiment, is very. ISTOCK

never returned — and they weren't even flashy high-end smartphones: Symantec used older Google Android phones for the experiment.

Among the questions that Symantec wanted to answer with the study was how persistent people would be in poking around a found phone.

The answer was very. One phone dropped at a Calgary bus stop was found by an honourable person eager to return it. But while waiting to establish contact with the

rightful owner, that person did some extensive snooping. That storyline wasn't unusual.

Ninety-three per cent of the phones were accessed in some way by people who found them. Social networking and corporate-related apps were tapped on about two-thirds of the phones, while passwords, photos and email apps were launched on half of the devices. An online banking app was accessed on one in three phones.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec

Lac-Mégantic probe officially wrapped up

Quebec provincial police are confirming they have completed their investigation into the deadly train disaster in Lac-Mégantic.

The crash and explosion killed 47 and destroyed a large swath of the downtown area last summer.

Police spokeswoman Aurelie Guindon says the investigation was officially wrapped up on Saturday and the case is now in the hands of the province's director of criminal and penal prosecutions.

Neither the Crown nor police would discuss the results of the probe.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta

Man forced from home by flooding wins a new house

A man who was forced out of his home by flooding in southern Alberta last year has won a show home worth almost \$1 million.

High River resident William Rader was out of his house for almost two months when floodwaters swamped most of the town south of Calgary last June.

Rader bought a ticket for the STARS air ambulance fundraising lottery and was one of four grand-prize winners. He says finding out he won a house — worth \$945,000 — is surreal and it will take some time to sink in. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Political pages

Justin Trudeau publishing an autobiography

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau has announced he will publish a personal memoir.

In a press release, publisher HarperCollins Canada says the "candid" autobiography will cover the 42-year-old's childhood to his university days and political career, and will boast "anecdotes, personal reflections and never-before-seen photographs."

The memoir is set to be released this fall, and proceeds will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross Society.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Egyptian court holds another mass trial

Troubling. The trials have raised deep concerns among human rights activists

After a single session with no defence lawyers present, an Egyptian judge said Tuesday he will issue verdicts next month in a new mass trial of 683 suspected Islamists on charges of murder and attempted murder, a day after he sentenced hundreds to death in a similar trial that raised a storm of international criticism.

The mass trials have raised deep concerns among human rights activists over the lack of due process as Egyptian authorities push swift and heavy prosecutions in their crackdown against Islamists and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Some 16,000 have been arrested in the crackdown since the military's ouster of President Mohammed Morsi

last summer.

Defence lawyers boycotted the trial that began Tuesday in the court in the city of Minya, south of Cairo, to protest the verdicts issued the day before in a separate trial.

Despite the lawyer boycott, presiding judge Said Youssef went ahead with the session, hearing testimony, in what the lawyers called a violation of the law.

After the five-hour hearing, the judge announced that he would issue verdicts in the case at the next session, set for April 28, according to judicial and security officials who attended the sessions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Defies logic'

- The U.S. State Department said it "defies logic" that so many defendants could have gotten a fair trial in two sessions.

Challenging case

U.S. Supreme Court tackles religious rights of companies

The U.S. Supreme Court struggled Tuesday with the question of whether companies have religious rights, a case challenging President Barack Obama's health overhaul and its guarantee of birth control in employees' preventive care plans.

Peppering attorneys with questions in a 90-minute argument, the justices weighed the rights of for-profit companies against the rights of female employees. The discussion ranged to abortion, too, and even whether a female worker could be forced to wear an all-covering burka.

The outcome could turn on the views of Justice Anthony Kennedy, often the decisive vote, as his eight colleagues appeared otherwise

to divide along liberal and conservative lines.

As the court heard the challenge brought by the Hobby Lobby chain of stores and others, demonstrators on both sides of the issue chanted outside in an early spring snow.

The justices upheld the overall health-care law two years ago in a 5-4 ruling in which Chief Justice John Roberts cast the deciding vote in favour of Obama's signature domestic legislation.

The latest case focuses on a sliver of the law dealing with preventive services, including contraception, that must be offered in a company's plan at no extra charge.

The family-owned companies that are challenging the provision provide health insurance to their employees but object to covering certain methods of birth control that they say can work after conception, in violation of their religious beliefs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A MESSAGE from CAPITAL HEALTH

To the citizens and taxpayers we serve...

Providing safe, high-quality care for patients is our priority at Capital Health.

We have begun preparing for a possible strike by NSGEU registered nurses that would cause a significant disruption in health care services for patients from across Nova Scotia and the other Atlantic provinces.

A legal strike by members of NSGEU Local 97 could begin as soon as **Thursday, April 3.**

Capital Health respects the right of unionized employees to take this action. Our responsibility is to plan for a disruption in the health care services that we provide. Our commitment, as always, is to deliver the safest care we can under given conditions.

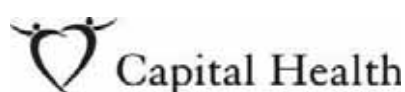
Here's what you need to know:

- Local 97 members work primarily at: QEII Health Sciences Centre (Halifax Infirmary, Abbie J. Lane, Camp Hill/Veterans, Victoria General, Nova Scotia Rehab), Nova Scotia Hospital site, East Coast Forensic Hospital and Public Health Services.
- Licensed practical nurses, Nova Scotia Nurses Union registered nurses, other health care providers, and doctors are expected to continue to provide care.

In the event of a strike:

- An emergency services agreement with the union means that NSGEU registered nurses will provide care only in areas where it feels lives may be at risk.
- Our emergency rooms will remain open; dialysis and intensive care units, the Nova Scotia Cancer Centre, and veterans' services will be fully staffed by NSGEU registered nurses.
- Many other areas will be significantly understaffed by NSGEU registered nurses, disrupting care and resulting in some services closing.
- Surgeries will be limited to emergency cases; others will be postponed. Most outpatient clinics will close.
- If your appointment or surgery needs to be postponed, you will be contacted and arrangements will be made to reschedule.

For up-to-date information on services affected, visit www.cdha.nshealth.ca. You may also call 473-2700 or 1-855-473-2700 toll-free, or email yourcare@cdha.nshealth.ca.



Waving goodbye to Crimea

Ukrainian marines leaving their base wave from a bus in Feodosia, Crimea, Tuesday. Ukrainian soldiers piled onto buses and began their journey to Ukrainian territory on Tuesday, as former comrades saluted them from outside a base overrun by Russian forces. Their departure came as Ukraine's defence minister stepped down Tuesday after facing harsh criticism for the often hesitant reaction to Russia's annexation of Crimea, which was formalized following a hastily organized referendum this month. VALERIY KULYK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pilot ignored co-pilot's warning, report into Arctic crash reveals

First Air Flight 6550.

Crash at Resolute in August 2011 killed 8 passengers, 4 crew — three passengers miraculously survived

It took just 2-1/2 minutes for a combination of human and technical mistakes to turn a passenger and supply flight into a remote Arctic community from routine to calamitous.

A Transportation Safety Board report into the crash of First Air Flight 6550 blames an undetected autopilot change, a faulty compass reading and disagreement between the pilots about whether to abort the landing.

In cool, technical language the board's report provides a second-by-second breakdown



Transportation Safety Board lead investigator Brian MacDonald talks about the findings of a report into the First Air plane, which crashed in Resolute in 2011, at a news conference Tuesday in Ottawa. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

of what probably happened in the cockpit as the pilots crashed the Boeing 737 into a

hillside more than a kilometre from the runway.

Problems began because

on-board compasses were incorrectly adjusted by 17 degrees. That error was com-

pounded when the captain turned into the final approach and unwittingly changed the operational mode of the plane's autopilot. Busy with the landing checklist, in weather obscured by cloud, mist and light rain, neither he nor the co-pilot picked up the change.

Within seconds after that final turn, the co-pilot realized the plane was off course and repeatedly told the pilot, reminding him about the large hill to the right of the runway. The pilot replied that the autopilot was working fine.

Five seconds later, the co-pilot suggested they pull up and go around for another approach. The pilot, fully focused on landing the plane and on figuring out why his instruments were giving confusing readings, refused.

The plane smashed into the hill and broke into three main pieces. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Lawsuits

Several lawsuits filed over the disaster cast partial blame on the Canadian Forces, which had taken control over the airport on the day of the crash.

- The transportation board said the military's presence was not a contributing factor in the crash.
- The military had set up a temporary air traffic control tower to guide in all planes. The airport was normally an uncontrolled airspace and pilots navigated themselves onto the runway.
- The suits claim the military did not have enough people on duty to handle the air traffic.

Houston shipping channel reopens after oil spill

The U.S. Coast Guard partially reopened one of the nation's busiest seaports to ship traffic Tuesday, three days after a collision between a barge and a ship spilled up to 645,000 litres of tar-like oil into the waters south of Houston.

Authorities said ships

were being allowed through the Houston Ship Channel after their assessment teams deemed it was clear enough for passage. More than 100 ships on both sides of the channel were awaiting the re-opening. Traffic through the channel includes ships serv-

ing refineries key to American oil production.

The oil spill happened Saturday, when a barge carrying 3.4 million litres collided with a ship.

The amount of oil spilled was much less than such major U.S. disasters as the

1989 Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska, which dumped 42 million litres of oil into the Prince William Sound, and the Deepwater Horizon spill, which resulted in 378 million litres of oil entering the Gulf of Mexico four years ago.

Officials believe most of

the oil that spilled Saturday is drifting out of the Houston Ship Channel into the Gulf of Mexico, which should limit the impact on bird habitats around Galveston Bay as well as beaches and fisheries important to tourists.

Environmental groups

said the spill occurred at an especially sensitive time and place. The channel in Texas City, about 73 kilometres southeast of Houston, has shorebird habitat on both sides, and tens of thousands of wintering birds are still in the area. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

The IWK HEALTH CENTRE is looking for VOLUNTEER PATIENT AND FAMILY ADVISORS

A Patient/Family Advisor is anyone who:

- Experienced care or service at the IWK either directly or indirectly.
- Can help us understand what we do that helps you and your family.
- Can offer ideas for ways that we can improve the experience, quality, and safety-of-care for IWK patients and families.



Who can apply:

- Parents, guardians, current patients, former patients, siblings, grandparents, partners, daughters/sons - all your voices are important and all are welcome to apply. We want people from all ages, experiences and backgrounds to help offer input.

This volunteer opportunity may only require a few hours a month and involves working with other volunteers to advise the IWK on patient/family needs and to help promote patient and family centered care.

If you are more limited with time but still interested in participating, you can join an email distribution list and be a patient/family advisor from home.

For more information:

Visit <http://www.iwk.nshealth.ca/page/patient-and-family-advisors> or call 470-6896

Deadline for applications is April 11, 2014



Purple Day IS HERE!

March 26th is the Global Day for Epilepsy Awareness

Wear Purple to show you care.

**1 IN 100 PEOPLE HAVE EPILEPSY;
50 MILLION WORLDWIDE**

For more information contact

The Epilepsy Association of Nova Scotia

902-429-2633

promotions@epilepsyns.com

www.epilepsyns.com | www.purpleday.com



Ethiopia

Being gay to become a 'non-pardonable' crime

Ethiopia's lawmakers are set to pass a bill that puts homosexuality on a list of offences considered "non-pardonable" under the country's amnesty law, a measure that continues a trend of anti-gay

legislation across Africa. The bill, endorsed last week by Ethiopia's Cabinet, is widely expected to pass when lawmakers put it to a vote next week. Homosexuality is criminalized in 38 African countries, about 70 per cent of the continent, according to Amnesty International. Uganda and Nigeria have recently strengthened criminal penalties against homosexuals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indian Ocean search

China demands satellite data on missing plane

China demanded Tuesday that Malaysia turn over the satellite data used to conclude that a Malaysia Airlines jetliner had crashed in the southern Indian Ocean, killing all

239 on board. Officials sharply narrowed the search area as a result of that assessment, but the zone remains as large as Texas and Oklahoma combined. Australia said improved weather would allow the hunt for the plane to resume Wednesday after gale force winds and heavy rain forced a day-long delay.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Security guidelines

35 countries take new nuclear security pledge

Thirty-five countries pledged Tuesday to turn international guidelines on nuclear security into national laws, a move aimed at preventing terrorists from getting their hands on nuclear material. U.S. Energy

Secretary Ernest Moniz said the guidelines are now "the closest things we have to international standards for nuclear security." But the agreement on adopting guidelines into law was endorsed by just 35. Among other countries that agreed were France, Britain, Canada and Israel; notably absent were Russia, China, India and Pakistan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dozens missing, deaths keep climbing in Wash. mudslide

The search. Some crews had to pull back because of concerns over potential flash floods or another landslide

Washington state officials say searchers found 10 more bodies in the debris of a massive landslide, raising the number of people who died in the disaster to 24.

Snohomish County District 21 Fire Chief Travis Hots announced the fatalities Tuesday evening after residents from the nearby logging town of Darrington spent the day helping rescue crews scour the muck for any sign of survivors.

The grim discoveries came three days after the collapse of a rain-soaked hillside about 55 miles north of Seattle.

Searchers had warned they were likely to find more bodies in the debris field, which covered a neighbourhood of

49 structures. Authorities believe at least 25 were full-time residences.

Dozens of people remain unaccounted for. Authorities are working off a list of 176 potentially missing people, though many of those names likely are duplicates and they think that number will decrease.

From the beginning, rescue crews on the ground have faced dangerous and unpredictable conditions as they navigated quicksand-like mud that was 15 feet deep in some places. Some who went in got caught up to their armpits in the thick, sticky sludge.

A scientist who documented the landslide conditions on the hillside that buckled had warned in a 1999 report filed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of the "potential for a large catastrophic failure," the Seattle Times reported late Monday.

That report was written by geomorphologist Daniel J. Miller and his wife, Lynne Rodgers Miller. "We've known it

would happen at some point," Daniel Miller told the newspaper.

Snohomish County executive John Lovick and public works director Steve Thomsen said Monday night they were not aware of the 1999 report. "A slide of this magnitude is very difficult to predict," Thomsen told the Times. "There was no indication, no indication at all."

Snohomish County emergency management director John Pennington said officials would examine the report, but he said local authorities were vigilant about warning of potential landslide dangers. A less severe slide struck the area in 2006.

"We've done everything we could to protect them. We've mitigated the landslide from 2006," Pennington said at a morning news conference. "We're going to get to the bottom of this."

He said the local homeowners "were very aware of the slide potential."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Flowers are left on debris next to a demolished home where a woman's body was found following a deadly mudslide, Tuesday, in Arlington, Wash. ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama to propose ending NSA's phone spying



U.S. President Barack Obama SEAN GALLUP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/POOL

The White House wants the National Security Agency to get out of the business of sweeping up and storing vast amounts of data on Americans' phone calls. And a proposal to have the government seek information from phone companies' existing records satisfies public concerns about privacy, President Barack Obama said Tuesday.

The Obama administration is expected this week to propose that Congress overhaul the electronic surveillance program to end the govern-

ment's practice of collecting the phone records of millions of Americans and holding them for five years so the data can be searched for national security purposes. Obama commented Tuesday in the Netherlands at the close of a summit on nuclear security.

The White House proposal is similar to legislation members of the House Intelligence Committee introduced Tuesday. Both Obama and the chairman of the intelligence committee have said the existing phone records collec-

tion program receives plenty of oversight and the data is secure. But the White House and House intelligence committee are responding to public concerns about the NSA counterterrorism program.

Details of the government's secret phone records collection program were disclosed last year by former NSA contract systems analyst Edward Snowden.

"There's a lot of mistrust" as a result of the Snowden disclosures, Chairman of the House intelligence commit-

tee Mike Rogers, R-Mich., said. And this new proposal addresses those concerns, he said.

The White House is expected to propose that the phone companies hold onto the records for 18 months, just as they are required to do now by federal regulation.

The bulk phone records collection program is set to expire next summer. If Congress can't agree on changes before then, the program will end completely.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students holding out hope



MORGAN MODJESKI
Metro in Saskatoon

Despite inadequate funding, limited access to technology and outdated learning materials, some students attending school on First Nations reserves are hopeful about their future.

One of them is Grade 9 student Payton Daniels. Sitting in the library of the Sturgeon Lake Central School on Saskatchewan's Sturgeon Lake First Nation, the 15-year-old fiddles with her hands as she talks about her future goals.

"I want to go to university and become a veterinarian," she says. "I think I can do that with the education here."

With Prince Albert only about 40 minutes away, a number of students have been leaving Sturgeon Lake for opportunities in the city. But that option doesn't interest her.

"Here, I can actually learn about ... my native culture," Daniels says. "Our generation, we lost a lot of our culture.... I really want to get my culture back, and I've started beading, and I'm trying to learn Cree again."

If she graduates, she'll be among the minority of on-reserve First Nations students.

A 2011 report from Canada's auditor general found the education gap between First Nations and the rest of the population is growing even wider — a trend the federal government is trying to reverse.

The almost \$2 billion in promised funding is welcome news, but for many young people, like Grade 12 student Patrick Ermine, it will come too late.

"I'm actually known here at the school for being an artist, but there aren't any art classes," says Ermine, 18, who aspires to be a tattoo artist.

While Ermine and Daniels are hopeful about their future, Joanne Berg, a resource teacher at the school, remains worried that a lack of access to modern technology and resources will hurt students in the long run.

"When they choose to go off to university, and their profs are not looking at where they come from, they expect everybody to be able to go and research essays, and find their textbooks," she says.

"They just don't have that ability. We find the kids that are leaving and going off to university are coming back home because they don't know how to access those resources."



"I'm actually known here at the school for being an artist, but there aren't any art classes."

Patrick Ermine, 18, at Sturgeon Lake Central School

"I want to go to university and become a veterinarian. I think I can do that with the education here."

Payton Daniels, 15, at Sturgeon Lake Central School



Learning with

Upheaval is coming for First Nations schools. The federal government is planning to invest nearly \$2 billion into the neglected system and give communities more control over their own education. Metro travelled to two on-reserve schools to document their condition, the details of the plan and why many people say the proposed changes may be their kids' last chance.



A Grade 12 English class at Sturgeon Lake Central School reads *Lord of the Flies*. Administrators at many on-reserve schools must make do without the funds to hire



JACOB MORGAN
Metro in Saskatoon

For administrators at on-reserve schools, every day is a juggling act.

"It's a constant struggle finding enough money for everything," says Pauline McKay, director and principal of the Sturgeon Lake Central School, which serves the Sturgeon Lake First Nation about 55 kilometres northwest of Prince Albert, Sask.

But many are optimistic that the years ahead will be different.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is promising \$1.9 billion over seven years in the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act. The funding is set to kick in next year.

"We have one phys-ed teacher for all of our 500 kids," says McKay, providing an example of the chronic shortages. "There's always a lack of staff."

In most of the country, First Nations education is funded through the federal government, whereas mainstream public schools receive funding through the province.

McKay said that Sturgeon Lake gets \$6,500 per student per year. By comparison, the provincial government provided more than \$10,000 per student to public and Catholic divisions in the North Battleford, Sask., area, and around \$17,000 to the French board, according to a 2013 study from educational consultant R. J. Kowalchuk.

That discrepancy results in fewer course offerings.

McKay envies how provincial schools are able to enjoy such luxuries as drama and music classes.

"For extras, we have phys-ed and we've got Cree," McKay says. "That's it."

All this hasn't stopped McKay and others at the school from trying to produce graduates out of children deprived of resources. McKay designed her own schedule so students can focus their efforts on one course at a time each month.

At James Smith Cree Nation, roughly 65 kilometres from Prince Albert, the situation is even worse.

Marlene Nicholls, principal of Bernard Constant Community School, says her administration ends up with just \$4,340 per student. Staff can't even afford to call in sick.

"This year we weren't able to hire substitute teachers," she says.

During the five-plus years Nicholls has been with the school, she hasn't once been able to purchase a new vehicle. Luckily, she has a retention worker who can double as a mechanic.

"In the public school system, you have to have (your vehicles) inspected," she says. "We try our best to adhere to those rules and policies, but there's no money for that."

What Nicholls does have is a retention worker and a community liaison to keep tabs on troubled students.

"If a teacher says, 'This kid is missing,' then they go and find out what's happening," she says. "They also have some training in addictions."

less



enough teachers. JACOB MORGAN/METRO IN SASKATOON

Each of these social workers earns only \$19,000 a year.

The new Conservative initiative for First Nations education is expected to start injecting increased funding in 2015. So the question for those on the ground is not only whether it will be enough, but also whether it will be soon enough.

"I don't think people really believe what it's like in the reserve," McKay says.

French board in
North Battleford area
~\$17,000

Public and
Catholic schools
in North
Battleford area
~\$10,000

Annual
funding
per
student

Bernard Constant
Community School
in James Smith Cree
Nation
\$4,340

CATCHING DREAMS

Day 1: the Problem

Day 2: the Plan

Day 3: the Promise

On the web



1 Gallery. Outdated and in disrepair

Visit metronews.ca to take a closer look at some of the conditions that exist in the First Nations schools of Saskatchewan.

2 Timetable. The basics — just the basics

Principal Pauline McKay of the Sturgeon Lake Central School designed her own schedule so students can focus their efforts on one course at a time each month. Visit metronews.ca to see the meagre timetable.



Hope he's good
with names ...

Sturgeon Lake Central has just one
phys-ed teacher for its 500 students.



Low-cost subsidiary. Air Canada growing Rouge in bid to cut costs

Air Canada is trying to further cut costs by expanding its low-cost subsidiary Rouge in Western Canada and using it to replace its regular service on some U.S. routes from Vancouver and Calgary.

Air Canada said Tuesday that Rouge will begin daily flights at the end of April to Las Vegas from Calgary and Vancouver.

It will be followed with service to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Anchorage, Alaska, a key port for cruise ships. Seasonal service from Vancouver and Calgary to Phoenix will begin next December.

Air Canada chief commercial officer Ben Smith said the expansion of Rouge and the addition of new aircraft are a "key element of our strategy for sustainable, profitable growth at both airlines."

"Air Canada Rouge is best

Big reduction

15%

The Montreal-based airline is expecting to cut \$100 million in costs — a 15 per cent reduction in costs per available seat mile — over five years by adding new Boeing 777s, 787 Dreamliners and expanding Rouge.

suited to compete more cost effectively in these markets where there is both a high leisure travel demand and low-cost competition," he stated in a news release.

The airline is using Rouge to lower costs by filling planes with more passengers and paying workers less than on the main network.

Smith said it may add other destinations to Rouge as Air Canada receives delivery of new airplanes allowing its existing Airbus A319s and Boeing 767s to be transferred to the low-cost subsidiary. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Through the looking Glass. Luxottica sees green with Google deal

Shares in Italian eyewear maker Luxottica have risen sharply on the announcement that it will make frames for Google's new Internet-connected eyewear, the Google Glass.

Luxottica shares were up 4.7 per cent to 40.77 euros in Milan trading Tuesday.

CEO Andrea Guerra told the daily La Repubblica that the push to market will be in 2015 and that the Google part-

nership should help guarantee the eyewear maker annual growth of five per cent to 10 per cent.

Guerra said Luxottica should soon achieve revenues of 10 billion euros, up from 7 billion euros last year.

Google Glass is a computing device that includes a thumbnail-sized screen above the wearer's right eye to view Internet content.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Technology

BlackBerry aims to cash in on BBM

BlackBerry is about to launch an update to its popular BlackBerry Messenger chat service that it hopes will rake in some extra coin.

The technology firm is looking to generate revenue with its BBM app through sponsorships with brand names and by launching a new BBM Shop.

BBM has grown to more than 85 million since the chat service became available to iPhones and Android devices. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Market Minute



DOLLAR
89.61¢
(+0.28¢)



TSX
14,299.49 (+20.94)



OIL
\$99.19 US (-\$0.41)



GOLD
\$1,311.40 US (+\$0.20)

Natural gas: \$4.41 US (+\$0.12)
Dow Jones: 16,367.88 (+91.19)



Some ebook(glow)worms to get account credits

Maarten Heilbron of Toronto reads an ebook on his iPad while his wife, Kim, reads on a Kobo Touch. Buyers of ebooks will get account credits this week from five publishers — Hachette Book Group, HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster, Penguin Group and Holtzbrinck doing business as Macmillan — who reached settlements after states alleged they colluded to raise prices, New York's attorney general said Tuesday. **TEXT: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; PHOTO: RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Northwest Passage dream dead for now

You're enjoying your day ... Everything's going your way when along comes Lisa Raitt to tell you there'll be no Arctic shortcut soon



Not to be a Debbie Downer ... but Transport Minister Lisa Raitt says there's no Northwest Passage coming any time soon. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

The centuries-old dream of shipping through the Northwest Passage will remain mostly illusory for the foreseeable future, Canada's transport minister indicated Tuesday in a blunt assessment of the challenges ahead.

During an appearance in Washington, Lisa Raitt played down expectations that the Arctic is on the cusp of becoming an international shipping hub because of climate change.

She offered a list of concerns she's heard from the shipping industry, including from insurance companies — the ones Raitt said are really calling the shots when it comes to what's allowed to pass through the area.

The obstacles include

shallow passes and a lack of navigational markers, she said. The prospect of having a shipment stuck up there would wipe out any potential time-savings offered by the shorter intercontinental route.

And then there's the frightening prospect of oil spills.

"I don't see it happening right now," Raitt said

in a lengthy, freewheeling question-and-answer session at the Canadian American Business Council.

"I'm passionate about it. But I don't think it's a panacea, and I don't think the Panama Canal or the Suez Canal ... have any worries of competition from the Northwest Passage right now."

The delay's not necessarily a bad thing, she said.

Policy-makers now have time to prepare all the safety protocols necessary to protect the pristine region from spills. Raitt said she's looking forward to the release of a report this fall with recommendations on shipping north of the 60th parallel.

"I can tell you — one oil spill or accident in the Arctic is one visual you do not want to have in this world at all," Raitt said. "It's not just always about the economy. I can't believe I said that as a Conservative. But it's not always about the economy. You've got to balance it out with what's happening in terms of safety, and the environment too." Successive Canadian governments, especially the current one, have pointed to an impending burst of Arctic activity as a source of national pride. There have even been differences of opinion with other countries, including the U.S., about who would have sovereignty over the bustling new shipping routes. For now, Raitt said, it's baby steps. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

READING, WRITING AND ARRR

Math problem!

Little Johnny has 37 candies and wants to divide them evenly among his five buddies, leaving an equal number for himself. How many candies does each of the boys get?

Answer: Little Johnny hasn't the faintest idea.

He and his friends take the "discovery" method of mathematics at school, where they don't learn the answer but are taught techniques for getting to the answer some day.

So they don't know much about division or fractions. Nor, for that matter, multiplication tables, adding and subtracting from columns of numbers or any of that other boring stuff.

Go figure.

If you don't learn the fundamentals of math, you're in over your head the moment you encounter algebra. And if you don't master algebra, the door is barred to careers in engineering, science, medicine, IT, etc.



JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca

Math problem indeed!

I suppose you could get an English degree, but you'd have to learn how to spell. Although the way things are going these days, that may not be necessary.

This is not just idle speculation from the back-to-basics crowd. You know: those flinty fundamentalists who walked 10 kilometres to school uphill both ways in a snowstorm and liked it. Canadian math students have dropped out of the top 10 in international math scores. We're number 13!

And in the latest round of tests, only 16 per cent of Canadian students scored at "high achieving levels," compared to 30 per cent of Asian students.

That sound you hear? That's Canada's future going into the ditch on the road to progress.

Things are so bad even parents are starting to notice. The province of Alberta has drawn back from the "discovery" method after receiving a petition from more than 11,700

people who want their kids to be able to count. And Manitoba has reintroduced math drills back into the classroom, while trying to wean kids from kindergarten to Grade 3 off calculators. Ontario is sticking to the discovery course. Why fix it if it doesn't work in the first place?

Right now, you're probably going: "Who needs math?" Well, you do. Every day: at work, on the family finances, trying to convert U.S. gas prices to Canadian litres and dollars (which require advanced calculus), figuring out what to buy at the hardware store or how much to tip the waiter (although many restaurants are pleased to do the calculation for you).

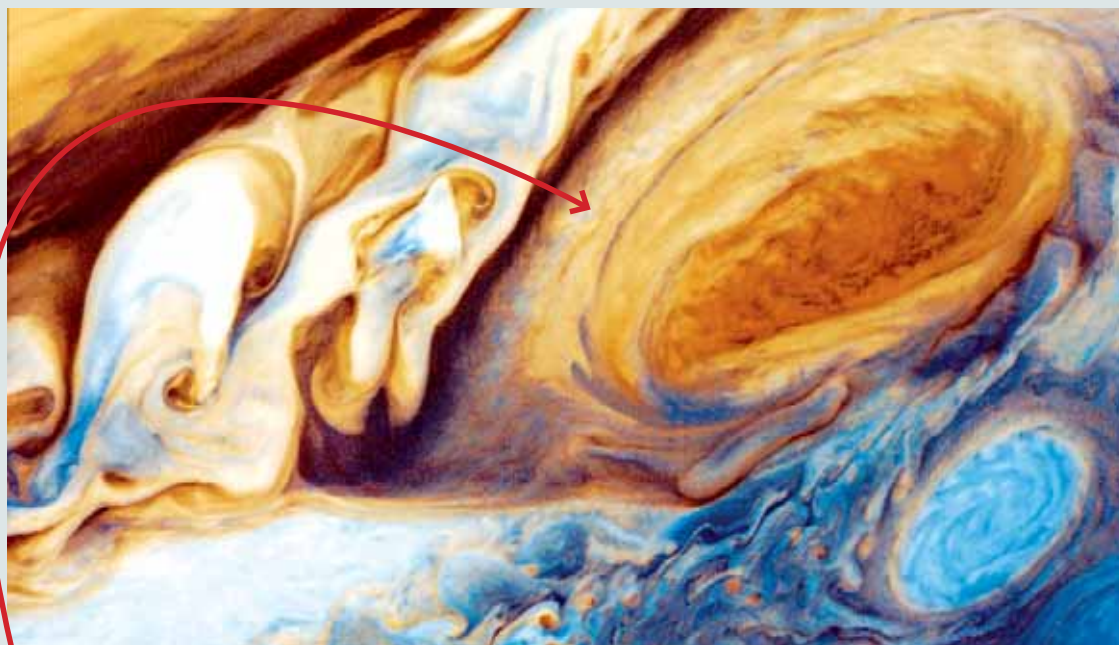
You're at the mercy of the bad old world unless you know how to figure, and for that you need multiplication tables or long division. And unless you do something and soon, your kids will suck at math even worse than you do.

Just think, if little Johnny knows how to divide, he'll successfully divvy up the candies into lots of six with one left over. And he gets to keep that one.

His friends can't count, so they'll never "discover" what he's done.

ZOOM

Jupiter paints a pretty picture



COURTESY NASA/JPL-CALTECH

Artistic photo of Great Red Spot

It appears to be a canvas painted with Vincent van Gogh's colourful swirls in mind — but this is in fact a photo of Jupiter's Great Red Spot, captured by NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft. The Great Red Spot, the most conspicuous feature of Jupiter's cloud surface, is an atmospheric storm that has been raging in the planet's

Southern Hemisphere for at least 400 years.

In 1979, Voyager zoomed toward Jupiter, capturing hundreds of images during its approach. The observations revealed many features of the planet's surface that are still being explored today. This particular view was only recently assembled from three black and white negatives by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. **METRO**

Storm's mystery

- **Size.** 20,000 kilometres long and 12,000 kilometres wide, 3.5 times the size of Earth.
- **Mystery.** Scientists remain baffled why the storm does not dissipate. Their best explanation is the storm gains energy by swallowing smaller vortices in Jupiter's jet streams.



A view of planet Jupiter.

COURTESY NASA

Clickbait



LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

The latest in a series of Internet memes-to-book crazes is dog shaming: pictures of downtrodden dogs posing with notes outlining what they ate, chewed or pooped on. However, like most Internet memes, dog shaming has spawned a series of spinoffs — even baby shaming.

DogShaming.com:

The original site is still one of the best. You can also follow Pascale Lemire on Twitter @dogshaming.

Cat-Shaming:

Not content to let dogs have even a slice of online infamy, the Internet's reigning animal was one of the first to jump on the shaming bandwagon. Tumblr is rife with cat-shaming pics, many of which are col-

lected at cat-shaming.tumblr.com.

Horse-Shaming.com:

For the irrepressible equine in your life.

Pinterest:

No matter what your preferred genre of shaming is, Pinterest has you covered. The photo-sharing site has plenty of shaming content, but is a particular hotbed of baby shaming.



CONTRIBUTED

Twitter

@metropicks asked: School boards are teaching responsible tweeting. What lesson would you teach kids who use social media?

@andiwrongwolf: I would teach them that their tweets along with any worldly doings are ultimately meaningless due to their unshakeable mortality

@sassypants81: Never use your real name. - Not Alana Beck

@EvanPetrie17: Don't hide behind anonymity. It's cowardly.

@Canucklehead_ca: RULE #1: Do as I say, not as I do.

@ljorche: Tweet as if your Grandparents will be reading it.

@artsytrish: Ignore the trolls. Do not engage in argument just because you are not face to face. Respect others.

@HanahBissell: everything is public and can never be deleted. Even if its "private" or "removed" Bad tweets at 16 can haunt you.

@reachstacey: they do not understand how swearing and vulgarity will come back to haunt them by employers-they don't care

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Crowe blockbuster latest in a flood of Noah movies

Story ark. Bible tale formerly featured in Disney films and doc



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

According to Genesis, God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them."

Noah, a righteous man, was commanded to build an ark and stock it with "two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive."

For 40 days and 40 nights Noah, his family and precious cargo withstood a flood so severe it submerged the tops of mountains until "every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out."

Once the flooding stopped and the Earth dried, God commanded Noah to come out of the ark and release the animals, "so they can multiply on the Earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

The story of Noah's ark and the flood is one of mankind's most famous tales and Hollywood has retold it a number of times.

This weekend Russell Crowe plays the title role in Noah, co-starring Jennifer Connelly, Anthony Hopkins and Emma Watson. Director Darren Aronofsky says he has been obsessed with the story since he was 13, calling it "the



Russell Crowe stars in Noah, directed by Darren Aronofsky. CONTRIBUTED

first apocalypse story." Nonetheless, he has added his own spin to the tale.

"When we first started working on the project, we were very clear not to have sandals and robes and long white beards," he told Rolling Stone. "The first thing I said to Russell Crowe was, 'I'll never shoot you on a houseboat with two giraffes standing behind you.'"

More traditional are two Disney short films. Father Noah's Ark is a 1933 "Silly Symphony" for children that tells the narrative in song.

Lively animation shows how the animals may have helped build the ship and why skunks almost didn't make it on board.

In 1959 Disney released the twenty-minute Noah's Ark, their first stop-motion animated film. A jazzy score accompanies equally jazzy animation as pencils, pipe cleaners and other household items are inventively used to create the animals.

Shooting the flood scene in the 1928 version of Noah's Ark endangered the life of a future Hollywood icon. John

An untraditional Noah

"When we first started working on the project, we were very clear not to have sandals and robes and long white beards."

Darren Aronofsky, director of Noah

Wayne was a swimmer in the famous scene, and emerged unhurt, but other weren't so lucky. Three extras drowned and a dozen others suffered broken limbs.

Finally, a 1977 documentary claims to shed some light on the real story. In Search

of Noah's Ark is an investigation into the speculation that Turkey's Mt. Ararat is the landing place of Noah's Ark. "This may be the most incredible film you will ever see," says narrator Brad Crandall, "but the facts that will be presented are true."

Wahlberg and Bay transform franchise



Mark Wahlberg says Transformers: Age of Extinction "will be the biggest movie of 2014." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Wahlberg, star of the upcoming Transformers: Age of Extinction, is promising the fourth installment of the Michael Bay-directed franchise will be a huge hit.

"For moviegoers all over the world, I guarantee this will take it up a notch," Wahlberg said Monday at the annual movie theatre convention CinemaCon.

Paramount vice chairman Rob Moore said Bay was hesitant to return to the franchise until they were able to zero in on the right story and cast

that would capture his imagination.

"Michael promised me it would be a very different, stand-alone movie, which it absolutely is," said Wahlberg. "It is bigger and better than the other three (films) combined. This will be the biggest movie of 2014."

In the action film, Wahlberg, who re-teams with Bay after last year's Pain and Gain, plays Cade Yeager, an automobile mechanic who discovers a rundown truck, which is really a transformer. Soon,

he's the target of Autobots, Decepticons and the government.

With a series of Transformers films, which featured a consistent cast including Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel and Tyrese Gibson, Wahlberg admitted he's feeling the pressure of stepping into the shoes of the other actors.

But he says he "had to jump at the opportunity because I really feel like it is probably the most iconic franchise in movie history."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow GETTY IMAGES

After 11 years, Gwyneth and Chris call it quits

It appears things have gone cold in the Paltrow-Martin household. After months of speculation, Gwyneth Paltrow confirmed on her website, Goop, that she and Coldplay singer Chris Martin are calling it quits.

"It is with hearts full of sadness that we have decided to separate," she writes. "We have been working hard for

well over a year, some of it together, some of it separated, to see what might have been possible between us, and we have come to the conclusion that while we love each other very much we will remain separate."

Paltrow and Martin married 11 years ago and have two children, Apple, 9, and Moses, 7. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Nick Cannon appeared on Instagram in gleeful whiteface to promote his upcoming album, *White People Party Music*. INSTAGRAM

Nick Cannon dons whiteface

MELINDA TAUB

Metro World News

White people, let's agree to be mature about this one.

Yes, that's Nick Cannon

up there. Yes, he's donned what might be termed "whiteface." Yes, he adorned the Instagram pic with the caption, "It's official... I'm White!!! #WHITEPEOPLE-PARTYMUSIC #Wppm in stores April 1st!!!!!!Dude Go Get It!!!!Join The Party!!!! #GoodCredit #DogKissing #BeerPong #FarmersMarkets

#FistPumping #CreamCheeseEating #RacialDraft "Bro I got drafted!!!"

So what led Mr. Mariah Carey to dress up as a ginger bro, looking like he's having the time of his life? He's promoting his upcoming album, *White People Party Music*. However, some of the Internet is writhing under the sting of what it perceives as Cannon's brutal racism.

I may be in the minority on this one, but I think it's fine. Blackface is offensive because minstrel shows were part of the systematic oppression of African-Americans for hundreds of years. White people have never been systematically oppressed by black people. No, not even two days ago, when Nick Cannon dressed up as your cousin Colin.



Taylor Swift GETTY IMAGES

Swift gets restraining order against stalker

A judge has granted Taylor Swift a three-year restraining order against a man who has threatened the singer's family.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carol Boas Goodson granted Swift a protective order from Timothy Sweet, who has expressed his belief that he is married to the Grammy winner.

Swift was granted a temporary restraining order against Sweet on March 3. Court filings state Sweet has sent threatening messages online and went to Swift's Beverly Hills home in February. The order also covers Swift's parents.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Machu Picchu three ways

A trip to the ancient citadel in Peru's Cusco region, 2,430 metres above sea level, tops many bucket lists. The beauty of the 15th-century site becomes even more awe-inspiring when you take in the surrounding Andean peaks and the Vilcanota-Urubamba River. Whether you're a thrill-seeker, an eco aficionado or a connoisseur, there's something for everyone on the trail to the icon of Inca civilization.

MORGAN DUNLOP
life@metronews.ca



Loki Hostel's action-packed tours are a great way to bond with other fun-loving travellers. MORGAN DUNLOP/FOR METRO

For the thrill-seeker

Party every night with travellers from around the world at the Loki Hostel in Cusco city (beds from \$8). Named after the Scandinavian god of mischief, this former Spanish colonial home fell into disrepair before four friends set out to turn it into the go-to social spot for fun-loving travellers looking to bond over copious amounts of alcohol. After sharing a row of fiery blood bombs — a shot of vodka mixed with grenadine, lit on fire and plunged into a half-glass of Red Bull — you may decide to head on a trek to Machu Picchu together. The hostel's most action-packed tour leaves you at Machu Picchu after four days of hiking, white-water rafting, mountain biking and zip-lining. Make sure to hike the higher Huayna Picchu for a vertical climb that leads to a stunning view of the site. Before you leave Cusco, dine like a local at the San Pedro market. Expect to be pleasantly ignored and served authentic, inexpensive food, like barbecued guinea pig and alpaca. Try not to be too hungover when you pass the pungent entrails aisle. Visit lokihostel.com/cusco; also see the Loki Travel section of the site for tour information.

For the eco aficionado

Warm your feet by a crackling fire in your Andean-village inspired whitewashed casita at the Inka Terra Machu Picchu hotel (rooms from about \$440). A 30-minute bus ride from Machu Picchu, this property lies in the Andean cloud forest — a lush ecosystem at the intersection of the Peruvian Andes and the Amazon Basin. Towering mountains on either side provide fresh drinking water and fill the hotel's pool and hot tubs. The grounds are home to fruit and vegetable gardens, a tea plantation and 372 orchid species, as well as a diverse hummingbird population and several rescued Andean spectacled bears the hotel hopes to reintroduce to the wild. Take a day trip to Awana Kancha to see the life cycle of the garments you see at local markets. Feed llamas and alpacas while watching as women from local communities spin their fibres, dye the wool with various herbs, barks and minerals and weave them into intricate vibrant designs. Visit inkaterra.com and awanakancha.com/en.



Soak in the luxury at Palacio Nazarenas. PALACIO NAZARENAS

For the connoisseur

Sip a Pisco Sour prepared by your butler as you adapt to the altitude in Cusco's luxury hotel, Palacio Nazarenas (rooms from about \$610). Oxygen-enriched rooms and aromatherapy pillows, stuffed with peppermint, coca leaves, sage and flower petals, help ease the transition to 3,400 metres, about 1,000 metres higher than Machu Picchu. A five-minute walk from the main square, this property features modern comforts with historic charm. Board the Belmond Hiram Bingham train (return trip from about \$885), named after the archaeologist credited with introducing the West to Machu Picchu. Sip complimentary mimosas as you travel through the ever-changing scenery from Cusco city to Machu Picchu. Arrive at Machu Picchu rested and refreshed for a hike with one of the train's knowledgeable guides. Don't leave Peru without the Inca royalty treasure vicuña. Considered one of the softest, lightest and warmest animal fibres in the world, Kuna's vicuña shawl is sheared only from protected wild live animals (\$2,250 US). Visit palacionazarenas.com; belmond.com; and kuna.com.pe/en/natural_fibers/vicuana.

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Camping in Banff National Park. iStock

Get out under the stars

Learn to Camp. Parks Canada program aims to teach Canadians how to use their own backyard



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Spring is finally here and Parks Canada wants you to start planning a trip to its national parks and historic sites across the country. I chatted with Julie Lefebvre from the Visitor Experience Branch about the Learn to Camp program that's aiming to fill the parks this summer.

What is the Learn to Camp program?

We're organizing weekends to teach people the basics of camping. We're looking to help people who have no experience camping and don't know about our national parks or historic sites.

When they register we provide them with equipment such as a tent and sleeping pads through our partner Mountain Equipment Co-op. The Parks Canada and MEC staff run workshops through the weekend and teach them about how to set up a tent, cook around a camp and review all the equipment to bring. We even sing songs around the campfire. The idea is they get the skills to come on their own next time.

Where and when will these weekends be happening?

June 20 and 21 is the launch date and last Learn to Camp is end of September. There are about 20 places that are going to run the program across the country — mainly in national parks, but there are some historic sites as well.

A few places, like Rouge National Urban Park in Toronto, will do several Learn to Camp weekends throughout the summer but mainly it's once. Several locations will also provide buses from downtown locations to assist in getting everyone to the campsites.

How do people register?

They can call the Parks Canada call centre. You cannot do it online, but the website pc.gc.ca does contain all the information on dates and locations.

The registration opens on April 18. It is first come, first serve, so call as soon as it opens. Cost varies depending on location.

Is there a new program this summer?

Yes, Equipped Campsite. There are nine or 10 locations across the country including Banff National Park and Cape Breton Island that will be renting camping equipment. This is for people who don't have equipment and loved the Learn to Camp program in summers past. People who now feel confident to go on their own with their families.

Why are these programs so important?

They connect people with nature and give them a great opportunity to have a typical Canadian experience.

New York City. Architecture poses with fashion in Bill Cunningham exhibition

Bill Cunningham is a familiar presence on the social and fashion pages of The New York Times and the streets of New York City, riding a bicycle with a small camera bag strapped to his waist.

But long before his images of street fashion became a regular newspaper feature, Cunningham spent eight years, from 1968 to 1976, working on a whimsical photo essay of models in period costumes posing against historic sites of the same vintage.

Astride his bike, he searched secondhand shops for antique clothing and looked for architectural sites across the city to create the perfect tableaux, many of which featured his muse and fellow photographer, Editta Sherman.

The result was *Facades*, a book published in 1978.

Now, nearly all of the 88 gelatin silver prints from the series, which Cunningham donated to the New-York Historical Society, are featured in an exhibition there. Bill Cunningham: *Facades* runs through June 15.

A former hat maker, Cunningham's models are featured in fantastical headress. In one composition, Sherman wears a fur pillbox that playfully mimics the spiral lines of Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim



Photographer Bill Cunningham's muse, Editta Sherman, poses in front of the Associated Press Building at Rockefeller Center. NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Museum. In another, a large hat brimming with oversized feathers and flowers perched high on Sherman's head is used as a perfect counterpoint to the sculpture of Hercules, Minerva and Mercury on the clock atop Grand Central Terminal.

"I don't think he ever thought of it as a fashion project," said the show's curator, Valerie Paley. "It's more a social, architectural and fashion history of the city. ... He saw the grace of old architecture, the lines and the architectural integrity." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Bucket List

Hassle-free family adventure

Parents want holidays to be as much of a no-brainer as possible. Vacation operator Trafalgar to the rescue. It has a Family Experiences division, where all the fun gets curated for children, parents and grandparents, with

holidays in Canada, the U.S., Europe, South America and South Africa. Benefits include pre-planned itineraries, a chaperone to give you the insider treatment and smooth over language barriers, and full cultural experiences you couldn't possibly arrange yourself, particularly in a foreign country. Check out trafalgar.com.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO



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Don't get tied in knots for an interview

Hot under the collar. Ditch your necktie in favour of a professional bow tie

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When you're starting out on a job search, it's important to dress the part — whether you're at a networking event, business lunch or your first entry level job.

Despite the wealth of sartorial advice out there, I've always been a little disappointed at the lack of attention paid to that oft-maligned necktie alternative: the bow tie.

A moment of full disclosure: I couldn't be more biased on this particular front. I've been wearing bow ties for years.

However, this affinity has given me some insight into the practical merits of an admittedly esoteric piece of neckwear.

They're easy to tie (Part 1)

There's a popular misconception that a bow tie is a modern Gordian knot — when in fact tying a conventional necktie is much more complicated.

While most people learn to tie a tie one way and one way only, two Cambridge physicists have determined that the average tie can be knotted at least 85 different ways, 13 of which result in unique aesthetically pleasing knots.

By contrast, there's only one way to tie a bow tie — and the Internet is full of diagrams and videos that can teach you how.

They're easy to tie (Part 2)

Have you ever stood in front of your mirror, tying and re-tying a necktie, only to get the length wrong every time? Properly tied, a necktie is supposed to cover the entirety of your shirt placket, with the tip just grazing the top of your belt buckle.

It's hard to pull this off the first time, even after years of practice.



Bow ties are tall-person friendly, as you don't need to worry about having the right length of tie to work with. ISTOCK

This difficulty is greatly reduced with a bow tie. Less fabric to work with means you've got a good chance of getting it right the first time — plus, a bow-tie knot isn't

supposed to be perfect (just a little asymmetrical).

They're easy to wear

Noted American designer and architect Charles Eames wore

A-plus accessory

Nestled snugly at collar level, it leaves you free to sup soup with reckless abandon — and it can't get snagged in a drawer unless you go into a filing cabinet face first.

bow ties his entire life, supposedly because they kept out of his way while he worked at the drafting table.

If you regularly wear neckties, you'll know how many disastrous threats the average workplace offers your cravat. It can wind up dunked in your morning coffee, serving as an accidental serviette at lunch, snagged in a drawer... the list goes on.

The bow-tie gracefully avoids these potential pitfalls. Nestled snugly at collar level, it leaves you free to sup soup with reckless abandon — and it can't get snagged in a drawer unless you go into a filing cabinet face first.

They aren't as flashy as you think

"I couldn't get away with wearing that, everyone would stare at me."

I hear this a lot with respect to bow ties, often from friends who claim they admire my "courage." People are often afraid that they'll become an object of comment, or even ridicule, should they jump on the bowtie bandwagon.

The frank truth is that the average person — in your office, on the street — isn't really all that interested in what you're wearing. Sure, it's a bit of a rarity, but the odd funny look shouldn't be what deters you from trying new things.

After all, you'll never be able to find something that makes everyone happy.

If you work in a conservative industry, it's possible the bow tie might not be right for you. But if you're looking to express a little personal style and flair, it might just be time to jump on the bow-tie bandwagon.

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FLASH FOOD



From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

Frying up bacon and enjoying it on its own is wonderful. Adding it to soups, salads and sandwiches is also a great way to enjoy its flavour.

I decided to make my son's favourite meal (meatloaf) and one of his favourite meats (bacon), and put them together. When I excitedly told him that I combined his two favourites and that it would be amazing, he just looked at me and asked, "Why didn't you just make regular meatloaf?"

He was pleasantly surprised to taste the dish,

Cooking tips

- Make this meatloaf one night and then serve it up the next night crumbled or chopped with pasta sauce and toss it with cooked pasta for a tasty meatloaf pasta night!

with the bacon flavour adding smokiness and a delicious crisp texture to the meatloaf.

Truly, this was to be a perfect match!

A side of creamy mashed potatoes to go alongside each slice of this free-form meatloaf made for a lip-smacking dinner.

This recipe really should serve eight. It served five of us with a few slices for leftovers. Tucked into a soft kaiser bun and warmed through with a sprinkling of cheese, those leftovers made lunch delectable the next day.

1. In a nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat and cook leek, garlic, thyme and pepper, stirring for about eight minutes or until softened. Scrape into large bowl; let cool slightly.

2. Stir in eggs until combined. Add bread crumbs, cheese, milk, ketchup and Worcestershire; stir until well combined. Add veal and pork and using hands mix well until thoroughly combined.

3. On a parchment paper lined baking sheet shape mixture into a 9 x 5 inch (23 x 13 cm) loaf. Lay bacon slices on a diagonal across the meatloaf, trimming strips as necessary to cover the top and sides completely.

4. Bake in 375 F (190 C) oven for about 1 hour and 10 minutes or until meat thermometer inserted in centre reaches 160 F (70 C).

5. Let stand for 5 minutes before slicing into about 1-inch (2.5 cm) slices.



PREP TIME
15 MINUTES

This recipe makes eight servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- 2 tsp (10 ml) canola oil
- 1 leek, white and light green part only, thinly sliced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tsp (10 ml) dried thyme leaves
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) fresh ground black pepper
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup (250 ml) seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) milk
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) ketchup
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) Worcestershire sauce
- 1 lb (500 g) each ground veal and ground pork
- 10 slices side bacon



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Gadoury's hat trick carries Mooseheads

QMIHL. Herd rookie forward continues to turn heads with his unyielding scoring production



ANDREW RANKIN

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Philippe Gadoury doesn't give off the slightest hint of bravado or supreme confidence one would expect of a player of his seeming talent.

After his clutch performance on Tuesday night he looked like a young man a little embarrassed by being forced to reflect on what was a memorable evening.

The 20-year-old forward was in playoff mode, scoring a hat trick, including the game-winner in the Halifax Mooseheads' 4-1 victory over the Charlottetown Islanders before a subdued audience of 2,124 at the Eastlink Centre.

"Anybody would feel good after scoring three goals," said Gadoury, who leads his team in post-season scoring with five goals. "I'm always trying to focus on the future and not the past. I have to work hard everyday, try to stay calm and focus shift by shift."

Now, the Mooseheads prepare for Game 4 on Wednesday in Charlottetown, with a commanding 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Playing out much the same as the previous two contests,



Nikolaj Ehlers of the Halifax Mooseheads and David Henley of the Islanders upend each other along the boards during Tuesday night's action in Charlottetown. BRIAN MCINNIS/CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

the relentless Islanders led by the solid goaltending of Halifax's Mason McDonald hung with the Herd for a couple of periods.

But yet again, talent ultimately prevailed over hard work and the Mooseheads, who outshot the Islanders 42-17, laid down the hammer in the final frame, breaking a 1-1 tie with three unanswered goals.

"We started out the game

a little slow, but we got better and better in the second," said Gadoury. "In the dressing room we just talked about continuing in the second, and if we kept playing like we did in the third, we would be OK."

Mooseheads defenceman Mackenzie Weegar, who has five assists in the series, played a more defensive game on this evening, shadowing the Islanders 16-year-old sniper Daniel Sprong. Be-

sides his first-period goal, the Dutch forward struggled to find his rhythm.

"We were breaking their will," said Weegar. "You get 50 shots on net eventually some gotta go in."

On the other end, the Islanders were searching for positives.

"It's frustrating," said Islanders forward Zach Beaton. "We always try our best to work our hardest. We're

battling every night. I don't think that's going to stop regardless where the series is.

"We're going to come back tomorrow prepared and we'll battle some more."

Jonathan Drouin scored the other goal for the Herd.

Mooseheads co-captain Darcy Ashley was knocked out of the game with an upper body injury. He's listed as day-to-day and won't be in Wednesday's lineup.



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Maple Leafs goalie Jonathan Bernier surrenders a goal to the Blues' Alex Steen, not pictured, at the Air Canada Centre on Tuesday. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bernier can't stop Buds' losing streak

NHL. Maple Leafs' defence fails returning goalie in loss to league-leading Blues

Roaring cheers greeted the announcement of Jonathan Bernier as the Toronto Maple Leafs' starting goaltender. His return from injury was desperately needed amid a season-worst losing streak.

Bernier came back from a five-game absence and did what he could against the po-



tent Blues. But the result was the same as recent efforts for the Leafs, who made too many mistakes in front of him and couldn't come back, dropping their sixth straight, 5-3 to St. Louis on Tuesday night.

The loss, coupled with the Washington Capitals reaching overtime, dropped the Leafs out of a playoff spot for the first time since Jan. 14.

Bernier stopped the first 20 shots he faced and even played with a rare early lead before the Blues broke through. In his first game since aggravating a groin injury March 13, he finished with 44 saves on 48 shots and held his team in the game for much of the night.

Blues captain David Backes had a hat trick (counting the empty-netter) and U.S. Olym-

pic hero T.J. Oshie and former Leafs forward Alex Steen scored one apiece against Bernier, who fell victim to a failed clearing attempt by Dion Phaneuf and other blunders.

Joffrey Lupul scored early and then Carl Gunnarsson and James van Riemsdyk had goals in the third period for the Leafs (36-30-8), who had the building buzzing late.

Ryan Miller ultimately made the necessary stops, finishing with 21 to improve to 32-15-3 in his career against Toronto. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Waiters serves up a loss to Raps

Dion Waiters drives to the hoop on Toronto's John Salmons during the Cavaliers' 102-100 win over the Raptors on Tuesday night in Cleveland. Waiters had a game-high 24 points in the win. **TONY DEJAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Golf

Immelman joins Ashburn event

Masters champion Trevor Immelman will join Americans Matt Kuchar and Gary Woodland as part of Team World in the inaugural Canada Cup match scheduled for Ashburn Golf Club, on June 30. Canadians Mike Weir, Graham DeLaet and David Hearn will go head-to-head against international stars including Immelman, Kuchar and Woodland for the Canada Cup title. **METRO**

NBL Canada

Weather working in Rainmen's favour

The Halifax Rainmen will look to stave off playoff elimination against the Island Storm on Thursday night at home.

Game 6 was postponed to Thursday from Wednesday due to severe weather concerns.

The Rainmen, who are down 3-2 in the best-of-seven semifinal series, fell 129-90 in Game 5 in Charlottetown on Monday night. **METRO**

Golf. Weir not wearied by seven-year title drought

It has been almost seven years since Canadian Mike Weir last won on the PGA Tour.

He has battled injuries over the last few seasons and is trying to regain the form that saw him excel a decade ago. Weir has made the cut at only three events this year but feels his game is close to returning to form.

It's his short game that has cost him of late. Weir has been working hard to correct things as he prepares for the two tournaments ahead of the Masters

Timing is everything

"You've got to put it all together at the right time — I'm just not doing that." Canadian golfer Mike Weir reacting to his struggles on the PGA Tour

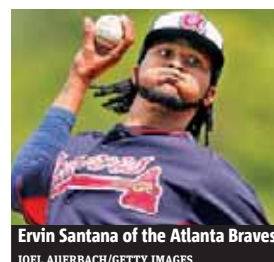
next month. Weir, 43, pulled out of an event in late January due to a neck injury. He has been training hard in recent weeks and feels strong and ready. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

MLB. Stingy Santana leads Braves past Tigers

Ervin Santana allowed two runs in three innings as the Atlanta Braves topped the Detroit Tigers 12-3 Tuesday.

Santana gave up four hits and struck out one in his second start since being signed by the Braves to a one-year, \$11-million deal on March 12.

Jason Heyward and Gerald Laird both homered for the Braves. Dan Uggla had two hits and two RBIs. Tigers starter Rick Porcello gave up six runs and 10 hits in six innings. Miguel Cabrera raised his



Ervin Santana of the Atlanta Braves
JOEL AUERBACH/GETTY IMAGES

spring batting average to .378 with two hits. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

TOP SIX @ 6
Weeknights at 6 K8 counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

- 6 Classified ft B.o.B Higher
- 5 Katy Perry ft Juicy J Dark Horse
- 4 Pharrell Williams Happy
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PHOTOS: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

2015 Chevrolet Tahoe

- **Type.** Four-door, rear-/four-wheel-drive full-size sport utility vehicle
- **Engines (hp).** 5.3-litre OHV V8 (355)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$50,800



Fuel economy

Despite a 45-kilogram drop in weight and improved aerodynamics, the Tahoe rates 14.9 l/100 km in the city and 10.1 on the highway, compared to a slightly better 14.3/9.4 rating for the 2014 model's 5.3 V8.

Design

The shape is sleeker, there's less weight and more available safety content on tap. However the powertrain is a bit harder on gas. The trimmer sheet metal and stylish grille create the impression that the Tahoe is a bit smaller than before, but the tape measure proves that not much has really changed.

Review. It might be an SUV but it makes no apologies about being hardy and capable

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

Honestly, when was the last time you heard the term "sport utility vehicle" banded about? It likely has been a while, since not many are being made anymore. Still, there are a few hanging on, including the full-size Tahoe and its super-size Suburban relation.

Hanging on? Actually, these rigs, with their ball-team seating capacities, are thriving where others have faded from sight or have been converted to gentler, more fuel-frugal car-based wagons. North American Tahoe/Suburban sales climbed more than 15 per cent for the 2013 model year and, according to General Motors, represented nearly half of all full-size sport utility vehicles sold. Add in healthy sales of the similar GMC Yukon and there's little

left for the few remaining competitors. The 2015 Tahoe, arriving this spring, has undergone a complete transformation. What is clear is the separation between the Tahoe and the considerably bolder looking 2015 Yukon counterpart.

It's a different story on the inside where max stowage volume has actually decreased slightly, possibly because the third-row seats now fold flat for added capacity and are no longer removable. Other changes include a more fashionable dashboard and control panel, complete with a five- or available eight-inch touchscreens that control the infotainment and communications systems. A smaller secondary screen is located between the watch-style dash gauges that displays key info where the driver can easily view it.

The filing-cabinet-sized centre console can swallow a laptop computer and other bulky items. There are also storage areas beneath the door armrests plus a secure spot behind the touchscreen for holding cell phones and other small valuables. The Tahoe's body is

attached to a stronger ladder frame that widens the distance between the wheels slightly for greater stability.

Mounted between the rails is a 5.3-litre V8 that produces 355 horsepower and healthy 383 pound-feet of torque. Although displacement is the same as the previous base V8, the new 5.3 is all-aluminum and employs direct-injection (fuel force-fed into the cylinders under high pressure) and continuously variable valve timing (alters valve lift/duration to improve performance and economy).

The engine can also run on four cylinders under steady-state cruising, which also saves gas. The transmission is a six-speed automatic with steering-wheel "TapShift" controls and a Tow/Haul mode that holds the gear changes longer when trailering heavy loads (up to 3,640 kilograms). There's also auto Grade Braking, which downshifts the transmission to help slow the Tahoe when descending a hill. This helps maintain vehicle control while ensuring the brakes don't overheat.

As per the 2014 version, the

2015 Tahoe is offered in LS, LT and LTZ flavours. Base models come with plenty of standard gear, with the mid- and top-grade trims piling on content such as keyless push-button entry, power-folding rear seat and start, magnetic ride control that constantly adjusts the dampers for a smoother ride.

Eighteen-inch wheels are standard with 20- and 22-inchers available at extra cost. On the safety front, along with the latest in crash-avoiding technologies, there's an available front-seat centre air bag.

It deploys (from the right side of the driver's seat) to prevent passengers from colliding with each other during a side impact. This key piece of technology addresses a weakness in current shoulder belt design that allows passengers to move sideways. Look for broader use of this in more vehicles. With a \$50,800 starting price (\$3,300 extra for four-wheel-drive), including destination charges, the new Tahoe continues a tradition of capability and power. Even in this day and age, it makes no apologies for that, nor should it.

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The garage floor. There it is.

Chipped, cracked, abused, stained, filthy, dusty, boring ... the garage floor. But after decades of being the grey sheep of the flooring world in nearly every home and many businesses, this stale concrete slab is enjoying a renaissance of affordable improvement options to finally show its true colours, literally.

From vivid tiles and decorative porcelain looks, to the more practical epoxy finishes, the art of the garage floor is gaining momentum by both professional installers and do-it-yourselfers. A few hundred dollars and a little imagination is all you need to transform any dull concrete into an inviting, safe and functional part of the property.

"It's a usable space that most homeowners don't pay much attention to," said John Massie, co-owner of a Garage Experts franchise located in Phoenix, Ariz. "But with more and more flooring options, homeowners are recognizing the benefits and taking more pride in that part of their property." Massie's primary area of expertise is the epoxy surface finishes because he believes this method provides the most durable and practical flooring option available.

Used for both residential and commercial floors, the epoxy treatment provides an immediate showroom shine that is every bit as beautiful as it is functional. From an understated solid stain to a vibrancy of colour flakes to be mixed and matched, the decorative options are endless. And because the garage space in many homes is becoming as

Reminder

"It's a usable space that most homeowners don't pay much attention to."

John Massie, co-owner of a Garage Experts franchise located in Phoenix, Ariz.

a much a "man cave" or gathering space as it is somewhere to park and tinker with the car, epoxy floors are a great option for both the home mechanic and the couch potato.

These modern epoxy floors not only look great and make cleanup easy, the hardness and thickness of these coatings protects the concrete against chips, cracks, scratches and harmful chemical spills.

Relatively easy application (after a lot of prep work) and affordability also make epoxy an inviting flooring option for do-it-yourselfers. Generally, the product requires the mixing of several parts and then application with a roller. Lower-end flooring kits for a standard two-car garage can cost about \$100.

Prices vary, obviously, but professional installation of an epoxy coating starts at about \$4 a square foot, so a typical two-car garage measuring about 400 square feet pushes the total cost to about \$1,600.

Like so many projects, the cost savings for the DIYers is obvious, but Massie warns that you get what you pay for.

"I've taken off more floors from do-it-yourself homeowners because they weren't happy with it and it didn't last as long as they expected it to," Massie said. "They see a bargain when they go to the store. They decide to do it themselves. They watch a YouTube video of the installation process, and then two years later they call us to fix it." But for those dedicated to doing it themselves, Massie said the most important consideration is the percentage of solids content in the epoxy coating, or the measure of how much epoxy will be lost through "evaporation" during the curing process.

Massie explains that the typical epoxy sold at home-improvement stores provides a solid content of about 60 to 80 per cent, meaning anywhere from 20 to 40 per cent of the applied product will be lost during the drying process.

Professional grade products cost about four times more than the standard store-bought epoxy coverings, but with a solid content of between 98 and 100 per cent, minimal product is lost and the homeowner can



Snap-together tiles, such as those from Racedeck Garage Floors (www.racedeck.com) come in many styles and colours and can be arranged in an infinite number of patterns. Compared to paint or epoxy, there's almost zero surface prep. ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE



In low-traffic areas, a normal painted floor can look good and wear well, but the garage environment is a harsh one with high loads, dropped tools and, of course, cars parked all over it.



Available in many colours and finishes, epoxy coatings are also appropriate for industrial uses, such as office foyers, airplane hangars and other such high-traffic areas. Epoxy requires more surface prep, but the task is not out of the realm of the do-it-yourselfer.

A common pattern

"They see a bargain when they go to the store. They decide to do it themselves. They watch a YouTube video of the installation process, and then two years later they call us to fix it."

John Massie, co-owner of a Garage Experts franchise located in Phoenix, Ariz

expect a properly installed floor to last for decades instead of just years. Massie compared epoxy production to brewing beer, where the lower-grade product used in the cheapest DIY kits literally comes from the bottom of the barrel.

"They just basically bottle it up and can it for consumer use," Massie said. "That's why it is a (quarter) of the cost."

And while epoxy floorings are the favourite choice for do-it-yourselfers, the popularity of interlocking tile floors is also growing because of the variety

of styles and colours they provide, along with easy installation. There is basically no surface preparation required at all. Available in either stiff polypropylene or the more flexible PVC rubbery materials, tile garage floors offer a personalized design for the do-it-yourselfer while also providing a non-slip flooring option that is resistant to stains, oils and chemicals.

Ballpark pricing for the least expensive polypropylene tile floors can start at about \$2 a square foot while the more

durable PVC tiles can cost \$3 or more per square foot. Peel and stick tile floors are another option — they're easy to install and cost about \$2.50 a square foot.

Massie is somewhat skeptical of the interlocking tile floors compared to epoxy because he said dirt and grime could get trapped in the gaps between the tiles and become next to impossible to clean without removing the entire floor.

"The biggest concern with the interlocking systems is

there is nothing sealing off the concrete floor underneath," said Massie, stressing that warranty is also an important factor to consider when choosing the best flooring option. "But interlocking tiles are easy for the homeowner to install and they look very nice."

Whether professional or DIY, turning a cold grey slab of concrete into an inviting place to play and work can not only improve the look of a garage but also add some value and appeal to a home or business.



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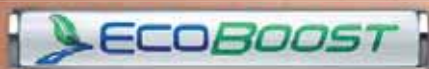
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Great Scotti! That's one hell of a car collection

Enforced auction.

Dealership owner and avid collector John must sell portion of his giant number of vehicles as he is moving house



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

In true collector spirit, John Scotti kept acquiring muscle cars and late model exotics, and didn't worry too much about the accumulation.

But now he's forced to — The Montreal-based collector, who also operates several new-car dealerships, has to relocate his Lamborghini and Lotus operations, which also houses a good chunk of his collection, and the new digs just can't take all the 'Vettes, Mustangs, Cudas, and Torinos.

So he's sending 400 to 450 of them to auction.

The "John Scotti Collection" will headline Auctions America's spring sale in Auburn, Ind., on May 8-10, and stands to be the largest single Canadian car collection ever sold at auction.



The star of the show could be the Chrysler Airflow, which should fetch \$150-200K.

Some might suggest the word "collection" could be replaced with "inventory," as most of the vehicles appeared to be for sale by John Scotti Classic Cars. But Howard Cohen, who manages John Scotti Classic Cars, told us there were cars in the warehouse no one ever saw. "Some have been sitting in there for 12 years." Cohen also adds that his boss is a lifelong car enthusiast who acquired the vehicles over a period of time, and that the collection very much reflects his personal tastes.

Scotti must be drawn to low-mileage original muscle cars, because there are an impressive number of those in the collection. Two such examples include the 1967 Corvette Convertible with 5,500 miles, and the 1987 Buick GNX showing just 90 original miles.

The car expected to fetch the highest value under the hammer is the show-ready 1934 Chrysler Airflow, with a sales estimate of \$150,000 to \$200,000.

All the collection cars will be sold with "no reserve"



A large portion of John Scotti's insanely large car collection. IMAGES: AUCTIONS AMERICA

(sometimes sellers stipulate a reserve or minimum selling amount that must be met before the vehicle can change hands).

While "no reserve" seems to introduce an element of risk, Gord Duff of Auctions America says history has shown that "no reserve" always creates more interest and attendance and buzz, and that always translates to better overall sales results.

He also noted that the John Scotti cars are on a one-way ticket to Indiana. "Both parties

(Auctions America and John Scotti) have put in lots of work to get these cars here. They're not going back to Montreal."

From Scotti's end, the work entails starting hundreds of veteran cars that haven't stirred for a while, and that means lots battery replacements and carb cleaning, and the occasional un-sticking of seized brakes. About 200 cars are already in Indiana. Another 200-plus to go. "Everything has to be out of here by April 30th, that's the cut-off," says Cohen.

While in an ideal world,

Cohen would have preferred to sell the cars the usual "retail" way, he completely agrees with his boss's decision to make this mass sell-off. "We just had too many cars ... To be honest with you, my boss likes buying more than he does selling."

And he's at it again. "John just made another purchase — 946 cars from a 92-year old collector." For more information on the John Scotti auction check out auctionsamerica.com. You can also watch a lot of the auction live on the NBC Sports Network.

Parts department

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If you and your active family are outdoors a lot, you might want to keep this product handy. The AirMan Air Gun from Active Tools USA Inc. can keep all your blow-up gear — footballs, basketballs, air mattresses, beach toys and bicycles — pumped up without the need to plug into your vehicle's power socket. The tool comes with its own lithium-ion battery (similar to a cordless drill) with AC charger. A pre-set pressure gauge with auto stop function, a variety of inflatable adapters and a built-in LED light are also included. The 1.9-kilogram AirMan comes with a travel carry bag. Active Tools sells only to its retail customers, including campingworld.com, which sells the AirMan Air Gun for \$78 US.



Grab a cab from London



If you're looking for something really unique — the word "bizarre" might be more accurate — to park in your garage, how about choosing an authentic, if slightly used, London cab? This actual retired taxi comes with all the trimmings, including air conditioning, rear parking sensor, leather interior and authentic taxi sign attached to the roof. Inside, there's room for six passengers plus the driver. A 2.7-litre four-cylinder diesel engine supplies the power and is connected to a three-speed automatic transmission. Note that the taxi is a right-hand-drive model. Gadget retailer Hammacher Schlemmer will sell you one for \$40,000 US, but the company advises that "Special conditions and guarantee limitations apply" (it is used, after all). Visit hammacher.com

Super Mario kids kart

If you have children or grandchildren who play video games, you know they will love this gift. Toys R Us has become the exclusive retailer for the actual ride-on version of Nintendo's Super Mario Kart from Jakks Pacific, which also produces a variety of officially licensed products for Nintendo. The brightly coloured single-passenger vehicle reproduces sound effects from the Mario Kart video game series so it's sure to drive parents crazy. Both indoor and outdoor tires are also supplied so kids up to 31 kilograms can drive it anywhere (a six-volt battery supplies low-speed power). Super Mario Kart is priced at \$70 US and can be ordered directly through Toys R Us at the store or online at toysrus.com.



Time for a change

Most do-it-yourselfers can avoid the markup on an oil change by doing it themselves, but the downside is that it can be pretty messy and time consuming. TRAC sells a variety of fluid/oil extractors that allow you to easily remove your old oil. All you need to do is insert the hose into the dipstick tube and pump the extractor's canister a few times to create a vacuum and the oil will automatically begin to flow out of your engine (be sure to warm up your engine first to get the particles, which settle, into suspension). You can purchase just the pump for \$22 US, or one of the combination fluid/oil extractor containers for \$35 US for the three-litre size, or \$45 US for the seven-litre version. Visit <http://stores.trac-outdoor.com/fluid-oil-extractors>.





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*Offer available to all qualified retail customers who lease a new 2014 Versa Note/Versa Sedan/Sentra/Altima Sedan on approved credit, from a participating Nissan retailer in Canada between March 1st and March 31st, 2014. This program is applicable to Nissan Finance special or standard lease rates. This is a limited time offer. Not combinable with fleet discounts. First time buyers are not eligible for the program. Customer can choose between two (2) options: four (4) semi-monthly payment waiver or NF cash support. The 4 semi-monthly payments waiver cannot be combined with the NF Cash Support; only one option can be selected. Payment Waiver: First four (4) semi-monthly monthly lease payments (including all taxes) will be waived, up to a maximum of \$500 per month (inclusive of taxes) per month. Consumer is responsible for any and all amounts in excess of \$500 per month (inclusive of taxes). After two (2) months, consumer will be required to make all remaining regularly scheduled payments over the remaining term of the contract. NF Cash Support: \$500/\$500/\$500/\$500 NF cash support is applicable to the lease of any new 2014 Versa Note/Versa Sedan/Sentra/Altima Sedan models and will be deducted from the negotiated selling/lease price before taxes and can be combined with special lease rates. *Representative semi-monthly lease offer based on new 2014 Versa Note 1.6 S (C4LGS4 AA00), manual transmission/2014 Sentra 1.8 S (C4LGS4 AA00), manual transmission/2014 Altima Sedan 2.5 (T4LGS4 AA00), CVT transmission/2014 Rogue S FWD (Y6RG14 AA00), CVT transmission. 0%/0%/0%/3.9% lease APR for a 39/39/60/60 month term equals 78/78/120/120 semi-monthly payments of \$69/\$79/\$118/\$138 with \$0/\$0/\$980/\$1,850 down payment, and \$0 security deposit. First semi-monthly payment, down payment and \$0 security deposit are due at lease inception. Prices include freight and fees. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km/year with excess charged at \$0.10/km. Total lease obligation is \$5,356/\$6,156/\$15,083/\$18,289, \$950/\$950 NF Lease Cash included in advertised price, applicable only on 2014 Versa Note 1.6 S (B6RG54 AA00), manual transmission/Sentra 1.8 S (C4LGS4 AA00), manual transmission/Altima Sedan 3.5 SL (T4SG14 NV00), CVT transmission/Rogue SL AWD Premium model subvented lease through Nissan Finance. \$200/\$400 dealer participation included and available only on 2014 Versa Note 1.6 S (B6RG54 AA00), manual transmission/Sentra 1.8 S (C4LGS4 AA00), CVT transmission/Altima Sedan 3.5 SL (T4SG14 NV00), CVT transmission/Rogue SL AWD Premium model offer. Conditions apply. *Models shown: \$20,565/\$21,565/\$34,573/\$34,728 Selling Price for a new 2014 Versa Note 1.6 SL Tech (B5TG14 NA00), Xtronic CVT* transmission/Sentra 1.8 SR (C4SG14 AA00), CVT transmission/Altima Sedan 3.5 SL (T4SG14 NV00), CVT transmission where applicable, air-conditioning levy (\$100) where applicable, insurance and applicable taxes are extra. Finance and lease offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers except stackable trading dollars. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Offers valid between March 1-31st. *Based on 2014 Canadian Residual Value Award in Subcompact Car/Compact Utility Vehicle segment. ALG is the industry benchmark for residual values and depreciation data, www.alg.com. *Global Automakers of Canada Entry Level Segmentation. MY14 Versa Note v. MY13/14 competitors. *All information compiled from third-party sources including manufacturer websites. Not responsible for errors in data on third party websites. 12/17/2013. Offers subject to change, continuation or cancellation without notice. Offers have no cash alternative value. See your participating Nissan retailer for complete details. ©1998-2014 Nissan Canada Inc. and Nissan Financial Services Inc., a division of Nissan Canada Inc.



After such a harsh winter, beware of huge potholes in secondary and rural roads. PHOTO: CARSTAR

With winter over, it's time to fear the potholes

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That sinking feeling.

Having eroded over the cold season, many roads are cracked and riddled with potential tire bursters and car body busters

JILL
MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

Along with warmer weather and the first flowers, spring also brings potholes. Not only are they annoying when you're driving, but if they're large enough, they have the potential to do serious damage to your vehicle.

"It depends on how you hit it, and how fast you're going," says Teresa Kostick, owner of All Line CARSTAR Auto Body, near Chicago. "And even though you're hitting it with your front wheel first, you may have a problem with the rear wheel too, because it will go into the same pothole."

Potholes happen when water seeps through cracks in the asphalt to the ground below. When it freezes, it pushes the pavement up and also creates an indentation under it. When warmer weather arrives and the ice melts, cars driving over the asphalt break it apart, and a pothole is born.

The wheel initially takes the blow, and a hard bump can bend a rim or even blow out a tire. Even if the tire stays in place, a bent rim can cause it to gradually lose air, eventu-

Quoted

"It depends on how you hit it, and how fast you're going. And even though you're hitting it with your front wheel first, you may have a problem with the rear wheel too, because it will go into the same pothole."

Teresa Kostick, All Line CARSTAR Auto Body

Take note

- **Eyes peeled.** Watch for puddles when the rest of the road is dry; there could be deep potholes under the water.

- **Check just in case.** Depending on circumstances, you may be able to make a claim to the municipality or your insurance company for pothole damage.

- **Warm weather mending.** Potholes can only be properly repaired when the weather is warm and dry.

ally leaving you with a flat tire. Hitting the pothole can also dislodge the wheel weights, leaving the wheel unbalanced.

A hard hit can potentially damage steering or suspension components, affect your brakes, crack the air dam or front fascia, or in severe conditions, even damage a wheel well or fender.

Warning signs of damage can include clunking or grinding noises when you're steering or using the brakes, vibration when you're driving, the vehicle pulls to one side, or the steering wheel is off-centre. All of these can be safety issues, and you should get the vehicle checked as soon as possible.

Even if nothing's broken, you may still need an alignment, which should be done promptly. If you keep driving it like that, it can cause uneven tire wear. The car could also steer or brake erratically if you need to make an emergency manoeuvre.

If you see a pothole, slow down before you get to it, not when you're about to hit it. Jamming on the brakes causes your vehicle to nosedive, which can potentially cause even more damage.

"Leave enough distance between you and the vehicle ahead so you can see potholes," Kostick says. "Lower your speed, and if you can't avoid the pothole, go over it as slowly as you can."

Mini is efficient fun but beware certain hiccups

Second gear.

2006-2013
Mini Cooper

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

The second-generation new Mini Cooper was available in a plethora of trim grades, body styles and variations, which launched initially in 2006 with others phased in over the following years. Before long, generation-two of the new Mini Cooper could be specified as a hatchback, a wagon, a convertible, a mini-SUV, a van, a coupe, or a roadster. Equipment included Bluetooth, navigation, push-button start, multimedia connectivity, mood lighting, oversized sunroofs, xenon lights, heated leather seats, automatic climate control, and plenty more.

Common issues

There's talk of timing chain issues with earlier turbo-charged units in this generation, from about 2007 to 2011. Apparently, an updated timing chain tensioner and some other improvements solved this issue after 2011 — but shoppers are advised to be aware of the issue and check with the seller, and a Mini technician, as to whether the unit in question should be investigated further. Oil consumption may contribute to the timing chain tensioner issue on earlier turbocharged Cooper engines, too. Some owners report heavy oil consumption, others report none, and most debate how much oil consumption is considered 'normal'. Going with a turbo model? Be sure it's been treated to frequent, on-time, high-quality oil changes — as these are vital to long-



term turbo health. Signs of a bad turbo include smoke (particularly at idle when the engine is warm), sporadic performance under hard acceleration, and oil leaks out of the turbo housing. Note that the Mini's turbocharger can be easily accessed for a mechanical inspection since

it's bolted to the front of the engine. Premature clutch failure has been reported by many owners, so be sure to drive the manual-equipped Mini you're considering while 'feeling' for signs of slippage or 'biting back' from the gearbox while changing gears.

What owners like



Handling that causes fits of laughter, very good fuel mileage, a largely comfortable ride, and sporty performance, even on non-turbo Mini's were all reported by owners.

Engine



All units, by default, get a 1.6 litre four-cylinder engine and drive the front wheels via an automatic or manual transmission. Look for output in the low 120-horsepower range, that figure increasing towards 180 in turbocharged models designated with an 'S'. Special hopped-up 'JCW' models have the boost dialed up, creating even more horsepower.

What owners dislike



Limited storage facilities, limited cargo room, limited rear-seat legroom on most models and an assortment of other size-related issues are the most common complaints.

The verdict

For maximum confidence, shop for as new a model as your budget will allow, as improvements were made to address some issues as production went on. Buying a used Mini Cooper without a mechanical checkup at a Mini dealer isn't recommended.

Service Directory

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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

It may at times seem as if you are moving backwards but that means you need to adjust your way of thinking. What you have to understand is that every experience moves you forward, eventually.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Social activities will go well today, so make an effort to get out and meet new people. The more things you do with others, the more you will enjoy yourself and the more of an effect your actions will have.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You can be a bit too blunt and with Mercury, your ruler, linked to Jupiter, planet of excess, today you may say too much. So what? At least you have something worth saying.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You need to realize there is more going on than you were previously aware of. You need to accept that in spite of all the bad things that go on in the world, it's a wonderful place.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Either you will come into money today or you will come up with a plan that makes you money in the future. If it's the latter, be patient. True wealth is worth waiting for.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Joint plans are less likely to go wrong today if you keep any doubts you have to yourself. Yes, it's quite likely you can see a better way of doing things but, having agreed to take part in a venture, you must be positive about it.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Self-confidence is the key to success, so believe in what you are doing. Remember too that the world you experience is largely a reflection of what goes on inside your head.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You must carry on with a creative endeavor that you may have been thinking of giving up on. You don't seem to realize how close you are to a breakthrough.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Today's Mercury-Jupiter aspect will help you find the words to connect with those you are closest to. You don't have to get emotional but you do have to remind them that your love is unconditional.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

It's unlike you to be easygoing about people you don't much like and opinions you think are stupid but you seem to have reached a point where, frankly, you no longer care. Getting uptight is not worth the hassle.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Mercury in the money area of your chart suggests that Lady Luck will be smiling on you over the next few days. If you do find you have extra cash in your pocket, why not treat someone you love to an afternoon or evening out?

Pisces

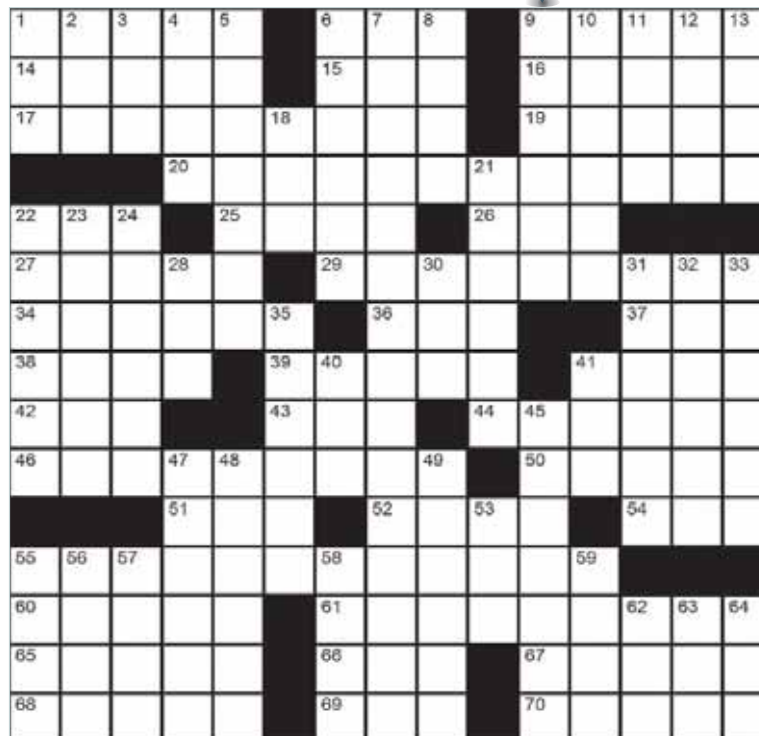
Feb. 20 - March 20

It's an ideal day to make promises. Mercury, planet of the mind, is on your side so decide what you desire and commit to making it yours. The universe will hear and respond favourably. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Nest noise
6. First aid team, e.g.
9. Quick times
14. ___ grudge
15. Maintain the lawn
16. "Garfield: ___ of Two Kitties" (2006)
17. Kim Mitchell hit: 3 wds.
19. Peppy gathering
20. Saskatchewan city just north of Saskatoon
22. Singer's prop
25. Jessica's surname
26. Scot's 'own'
27. Web memo, ___
29. Vintage comedy
34. New York's capital
36. Shiba ___ (Dog breed of Japan)
37. "___ Mir Bist Du Schon" by The Andrews Sisters
38. Randy Jackson's word
39. French painter Edouard
41. Musician Mr. Saunders
42. 'Capri' suffix
43. Smoker's prop
44. Has moved on: 2 wds.
46. Bing-using reason: 2 wds.
50. Still ___ (Maya Angelou poem)
51. Prefix to 'form'
52. "___ Flux" (2005)
54. Prefix to 'ate' (Ventilate)
55. Driver's must



60. Just one French fry
61. Justin's super fans
65. Hot chocolate
66. Wide shoe width
67. "No!"
68. Sharp weapon
69. Learning basics, informally
70. ___ Canada

Down

1. Visa transaction, briefly
2. "Yoo-___!"
3. Gremlin
4. Ancient Dead Sea land
5. ___ Free (Beauty product's label info, maybe)
6. Hams it up
7. Linda Evangelista's really took off in 1990: 2 wds.
8. Graceful bird
9. Canadian singer/producer Mr. Church
10. Turtles tune: "___ Me Babe"
11. Tumble
12. Stuff
13. Leonard ___, Roy Rogers' birth name (b.1911 - d.1998)
18. ___ Lanka
21. Largest dairy processor in Canada
22. ___ Lake (Saskatchewan city, the 'Gateway to Pure Air & Water')

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

23. Getting home tardily: 2 wds.
24. Arachnid's architecture
28. Wrestling: ___ team
30. 'Meth' suffix
31. Spanish airline
32. Cherry: French
33. Out of ___ (Unbalanced)
35. Q. "___" a song by what group?" A. "Village People."
40. Broadcast
41. Mal de ___ (Seasickness)
45. Don McLean song about a Dutch painter
47. Courtship guy
48. Group of nine
49. Faith ___
53. 'Pepper' add-on (Deli item)
55. Ozone pollutants, for short
56. In ___ (Sequentially)
57. Puerto's partner
58. Slangy 'super'
59. Celebrity hairstylist Jose
62. Actress Ms. Green
63. Stimp's pal
64. Non-Jr.s

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	9	3	7	2	4	5	8
4	2	5	1	9	8	3	6	7
3	8	7	4	6	5	2	1	9
8	3	1	7	2	6	5	9	4
5	7	4	9	8	3	1	2	6
2	9	6	5	1	4	8	7	3
7	4	2	6	3	1	9	8	5
9	5	8	2	4	7	6	3	1
6	1	3	8	5	9	7	4	2

			2	3			7	9
5	9			7	1			8
7					6		1	
6	1						3	4
4			7					5
6				1	9			3
2	5			4	7			

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Thursday

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NOW
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